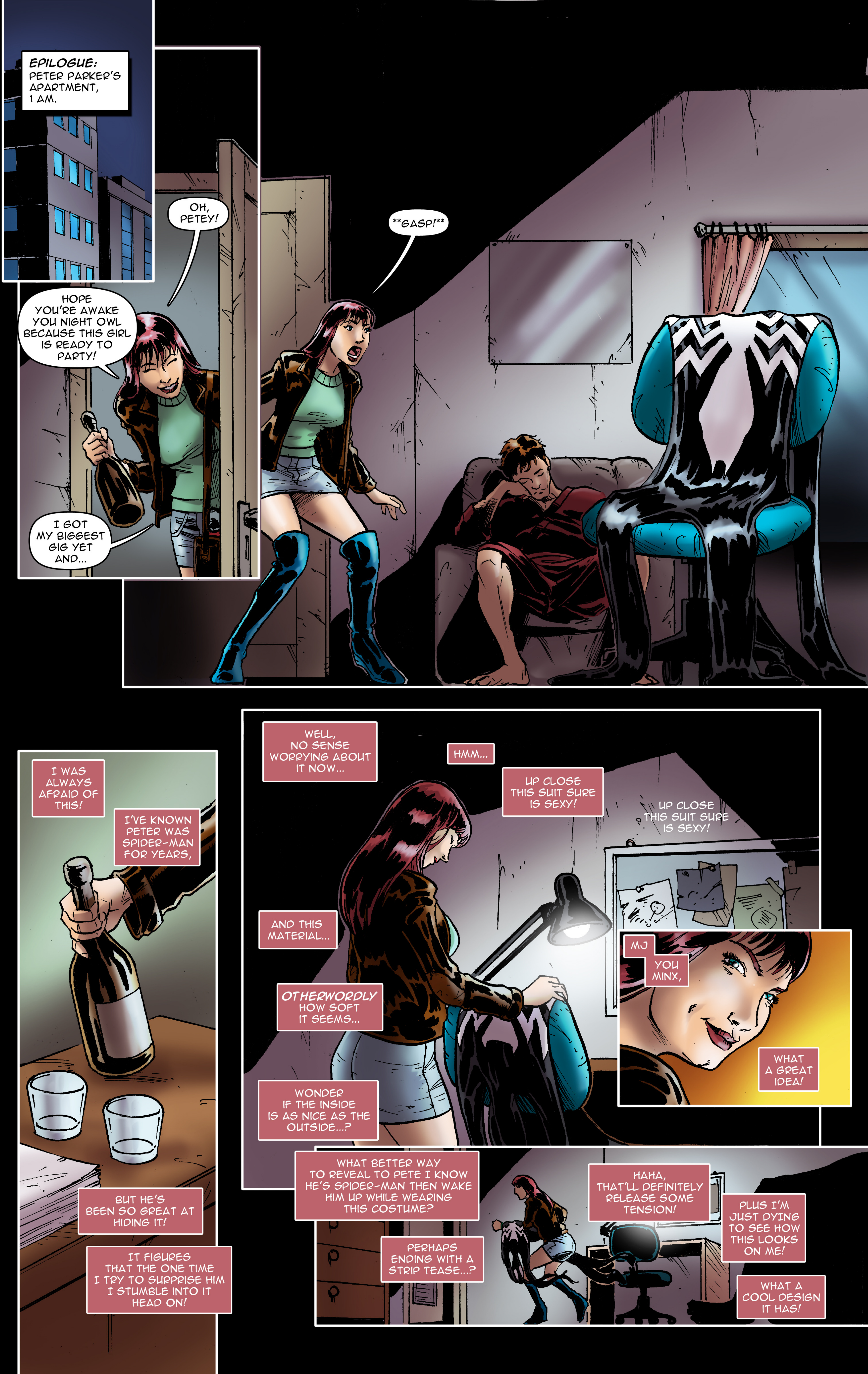
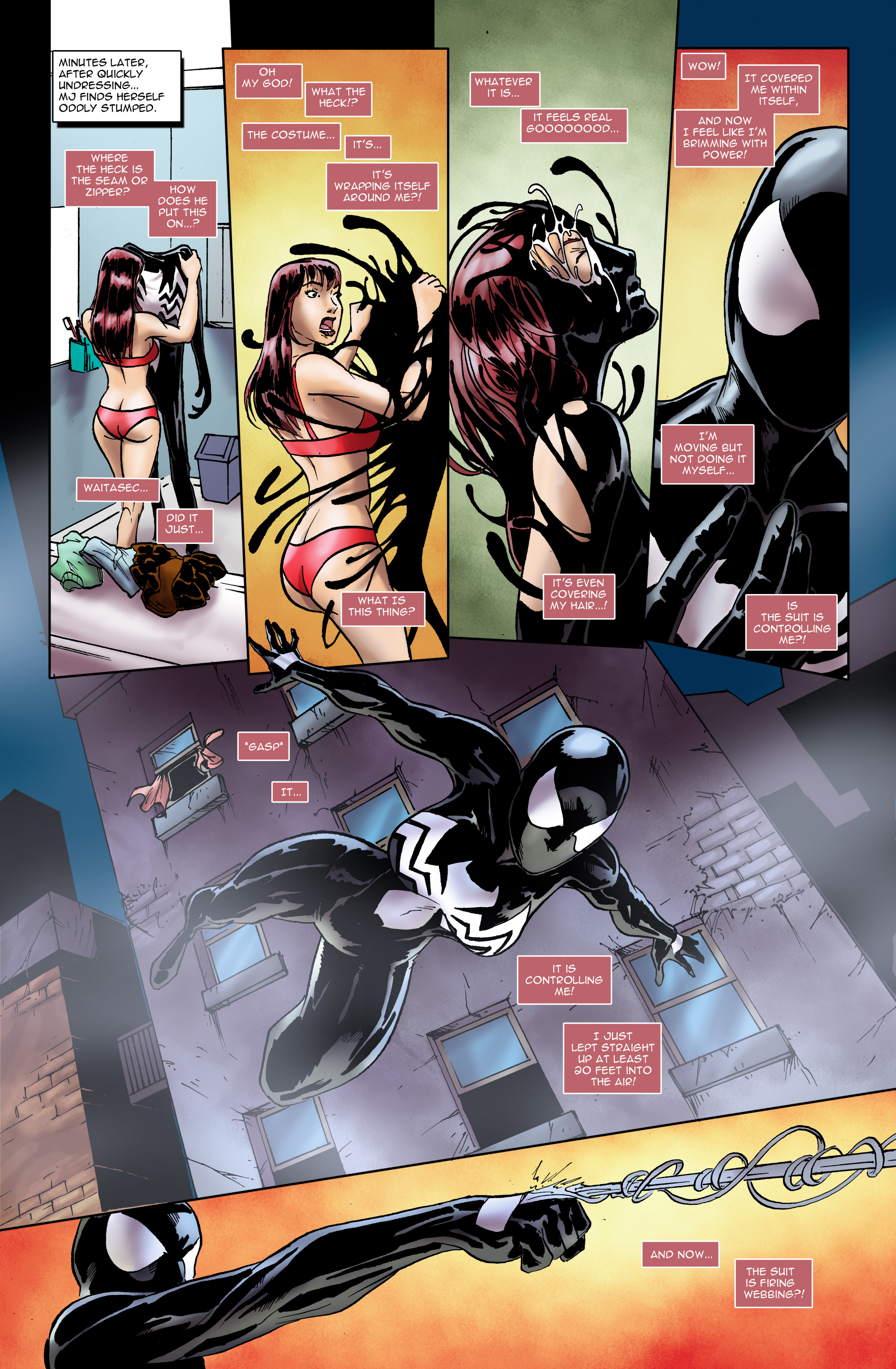
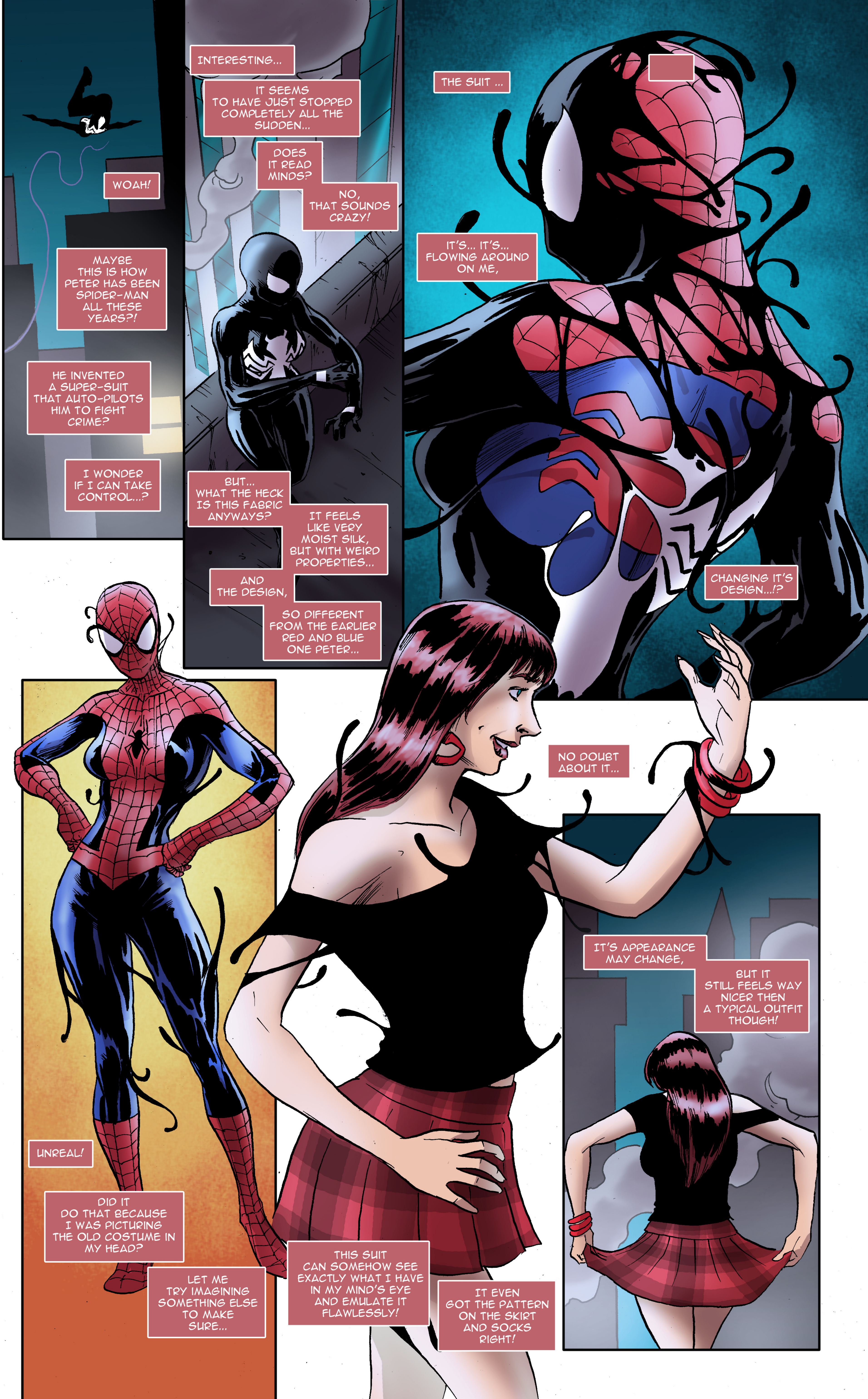
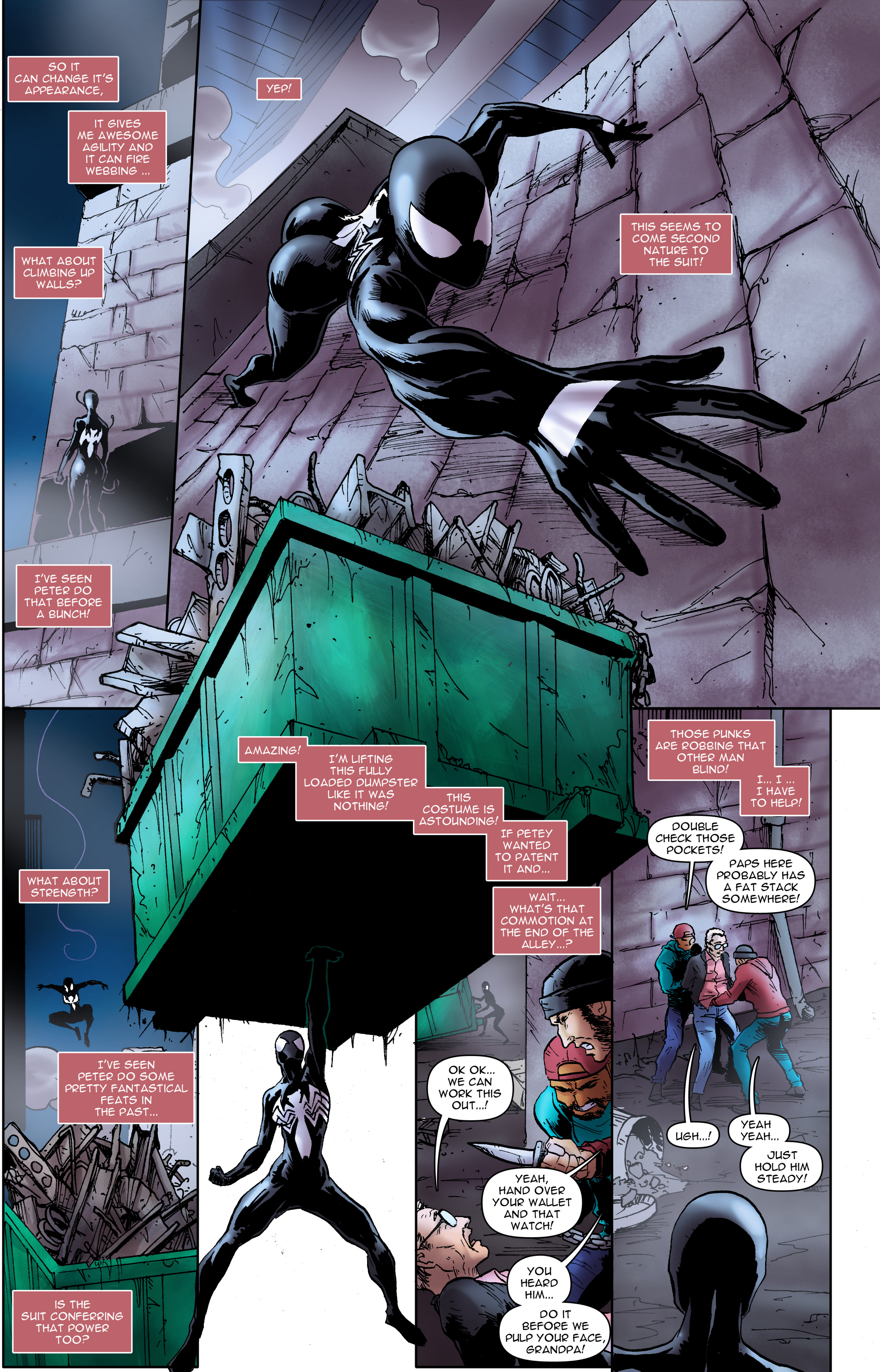
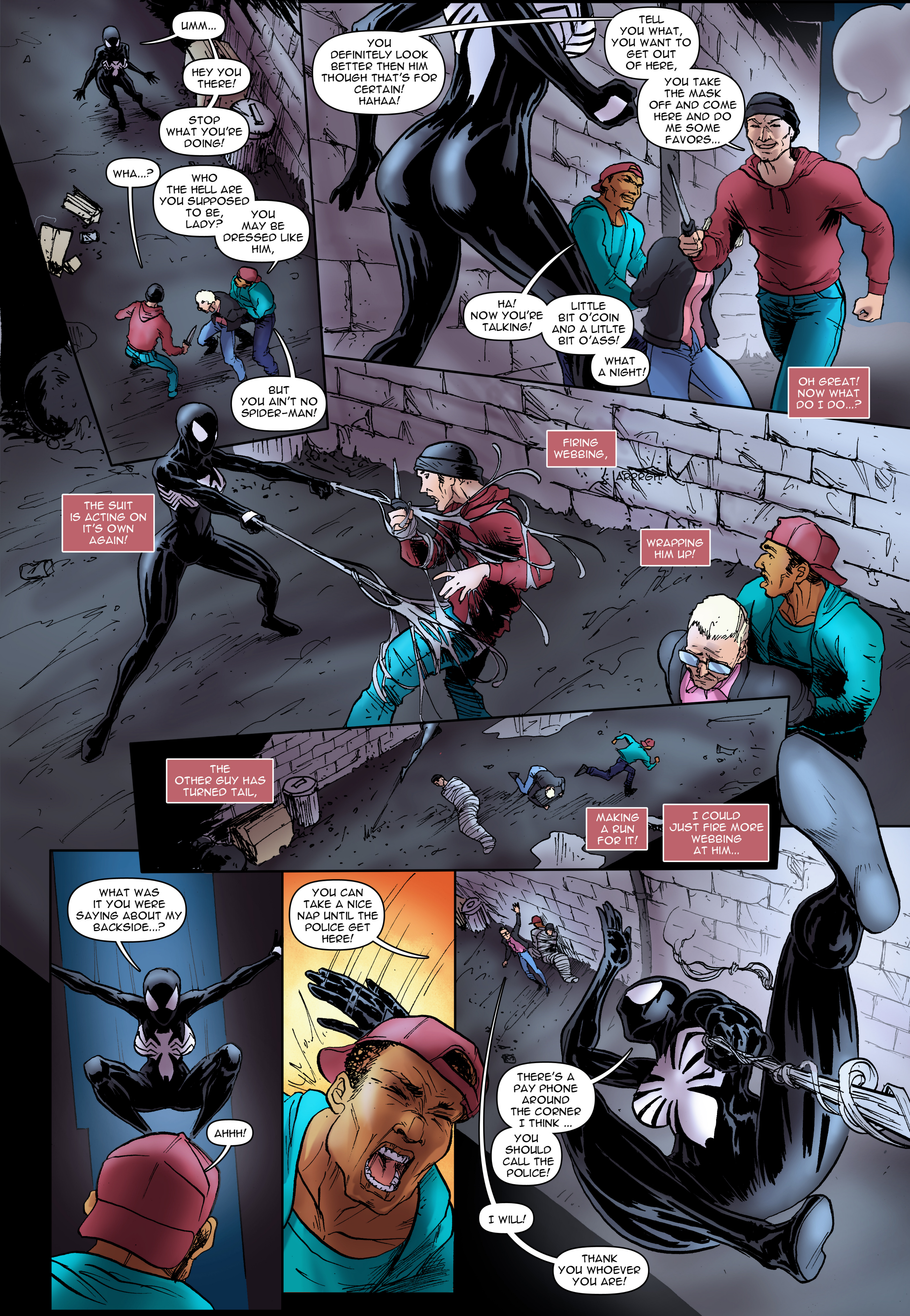
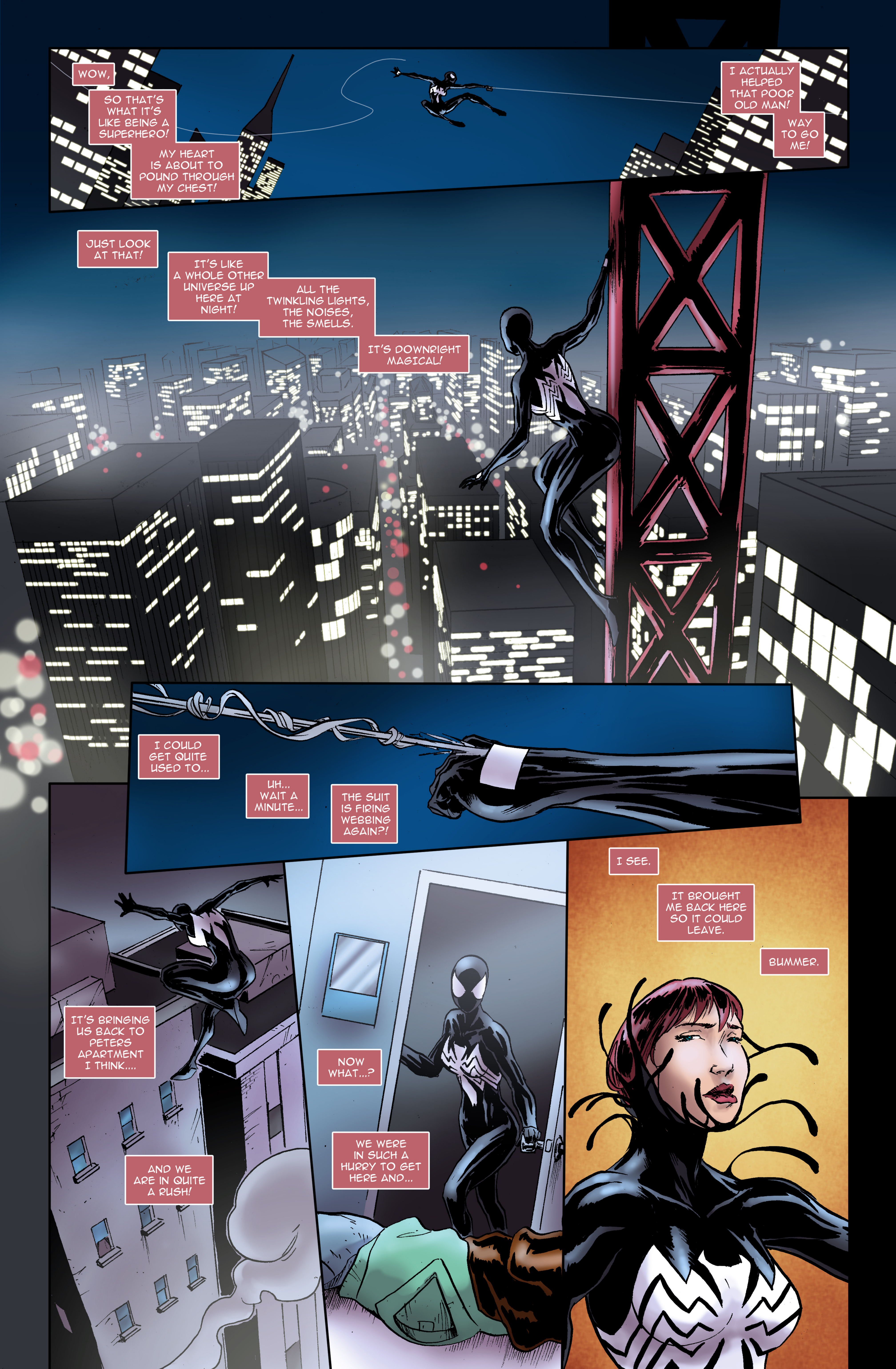

EPILOGUE: PETER PARKER'S APARTMENT, 1 AM.
HOPE YOU'RE AWAKE YOU NIGHT OWL BECAUSE THIS GIRL IS READY TO PARTY!
I GOT MY BIGGEST GIG YET AND...
OH, PETEY!
GASP!
I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF THIS!
I'VE KNOWN PETER WAS SPIDER-MAN FOR YEARS,
BUT HE'S BEEN SO GREAT AT HIDING IT!
IT FIGURES THAT THE ONE TIME I TRY TO SURPRISE HIM I STUMBLE INTO IT HEAD ON!
WELL, NO SENSE WORRYING ABOUT IT NOW...
HMM...
UP CLOSE THIS SUIT SURE IS SEXY!
UP CLOSE THIS SUIT SURE IS SEXY!
AND THIS MATERIAL...
OTHERWORDLY HOW SOFT IT SEEMS...
WONDER IF THE INSIDE IS AS NICE AS THE OUTSIDE...?
MJ
YOU MINX,
WHAT A GREAT IDEA!
WHAT BETTER WAY TO REVEAL TO PETE I KNOW HE'S SPIDER-MAN THEN WAKE HIM UP WHILE WEARING THIS COSTUME?
PERHAPS ENDING WITH A STRIP TEASE...?
HAHA, THAT'LL DEFINITELY RELEASE SOME TENSION!
PLUS I'M JUST DYING TO SEE HOW THIS LOOKS ON ME!
WHAT A COOL DESIGN IT HAS!

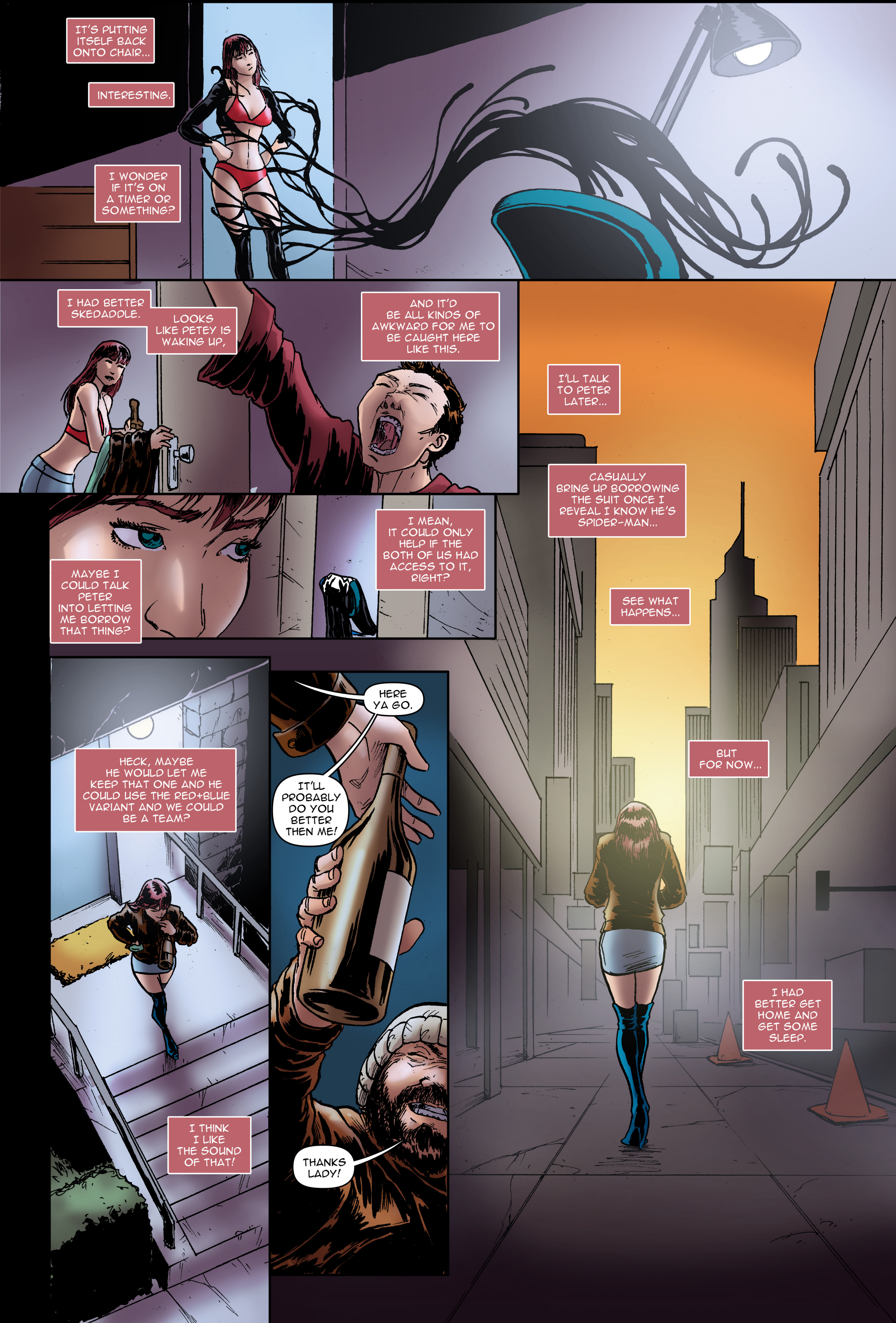

MINUTES LATER, AFTER QUICKLY UNDRESSING... MJ FINDS HERSELF ODDLY STUMPED.
WHERE THE HECK IS THE SEAM OR ZIPPER?
HOW DOES HE PUT THIS ON...?
WAITASEC...
DID IT JUST...
OH MY GOD!
WHAT THE HECK!?
THE COSTUME...
IT'S...
IT'S WRAPPING ITSELF AROUND ME?!
WHAT IS THIS THING?
WHATEVER IT IS...
IT FEELS REAL GOOOOOOOD...
IT'S EVEN COVERING MY HAIR...!
WOW!
IT COVERED ME WITHIN ITSELF,
AND NOW I FEEL LIKE I'M BRIMMING WITH POWER!
I'M MOVING BUT NOT DOING IT MYSELF...
IS THE SUIT IS CONTROLLING ME?!
GASP
IT...
IT IS CONTROLLING ME!
I JUST LEPT STRAIGHT UP AT LEAST 20 FEET INTO THE AIR!
AND NOW...
THE SUIT IS FIRING WEBBING?!

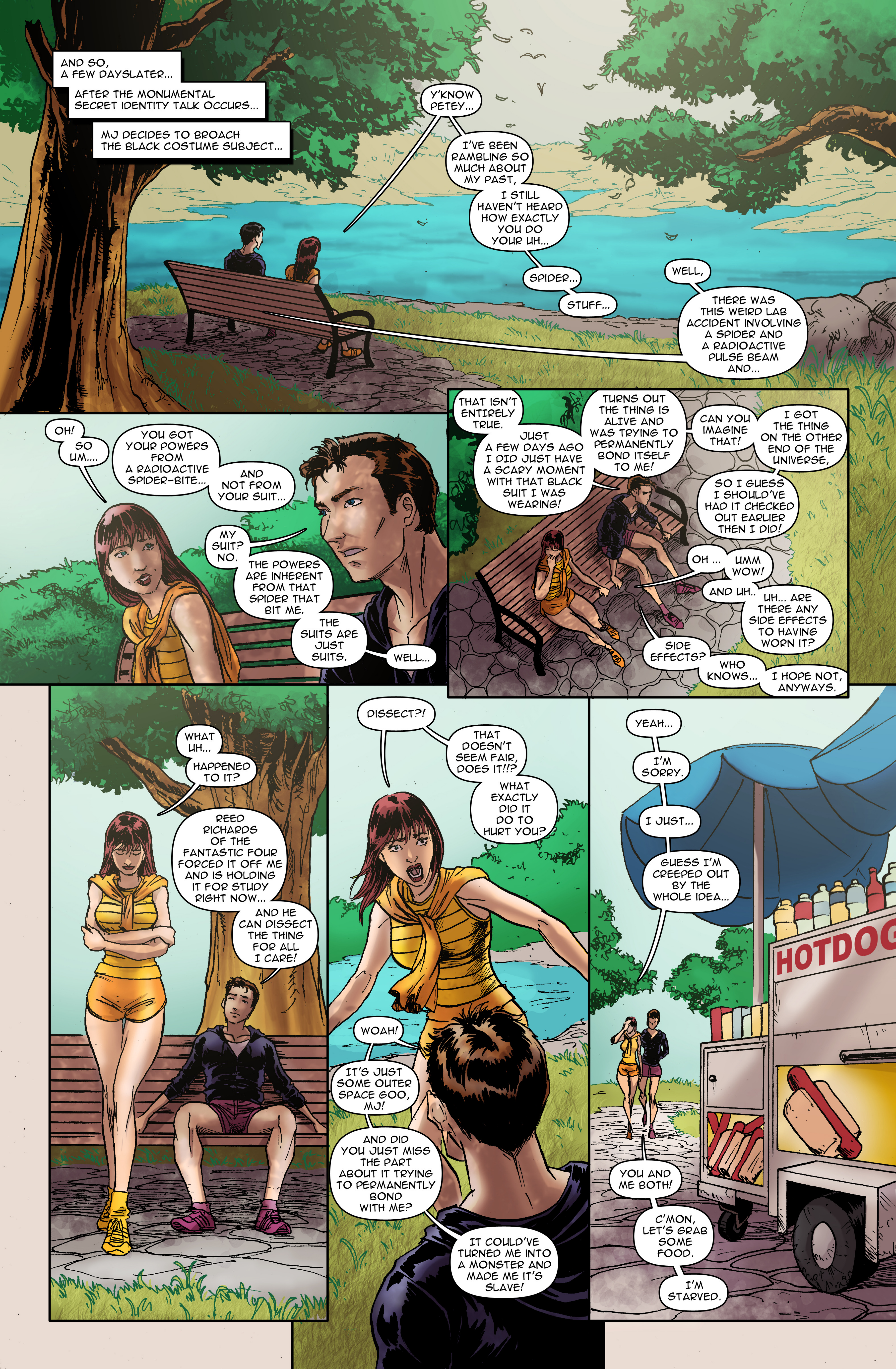

WOAH!
MAYBE THIS IS HOW PETER HAS BEEN SPIDER-MAN ALL THESE YEARS?!
HE INVENTED A SUPER-SUIT THAT AUTO-PILOTS HIM TO FIGHT CRIME?
I WONDER IF I CAN TAKE CONTROL...?
INTERESTING...
IT SEEMS TO HAVE JUST STOPPED COMPLETELY ALL THE SUDDEN...
DOES IT READ MINDS?
NO, THAT SOUNDS CRAZY!
BUT... WHAT THE HECK IS THIS FABRIC ANYWAYS?
IT FEELS LIKE VERY MOIST SILK, BUT WITH WEIRD PROPERTIES...
AND THE DESIGN,
SO DIFFERENT FROM THE EARLIER RED AND BLUE ONE PETER...
THE SUIT ...
IT'S... IT'S... FLOWING AROUND ON ME,
CHANGING IT'S DESIGN...!?
UNREAL!
DID IT DO THAT BECAUSE I WAS PICTURING THE OLD COSTUME IN MY HEAD?
LET ME TRY IMAGINING SOMETHING ELSE TO MAKE SURE...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
THIS SUIT CAN SOMEHOW SEE EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE IN MY MIND'S EYE AND EMULATE IT FLAWLESSLY!
IT EVEN GOT THE PATTERN ON THE SKIRT AND SOCKS RIGHT!
IT'S APPEARANCE MAY CHANGE,
BUT IT STILL FEELS WAY NICER THEN A TYPICAL OUTFIT THOUGH!

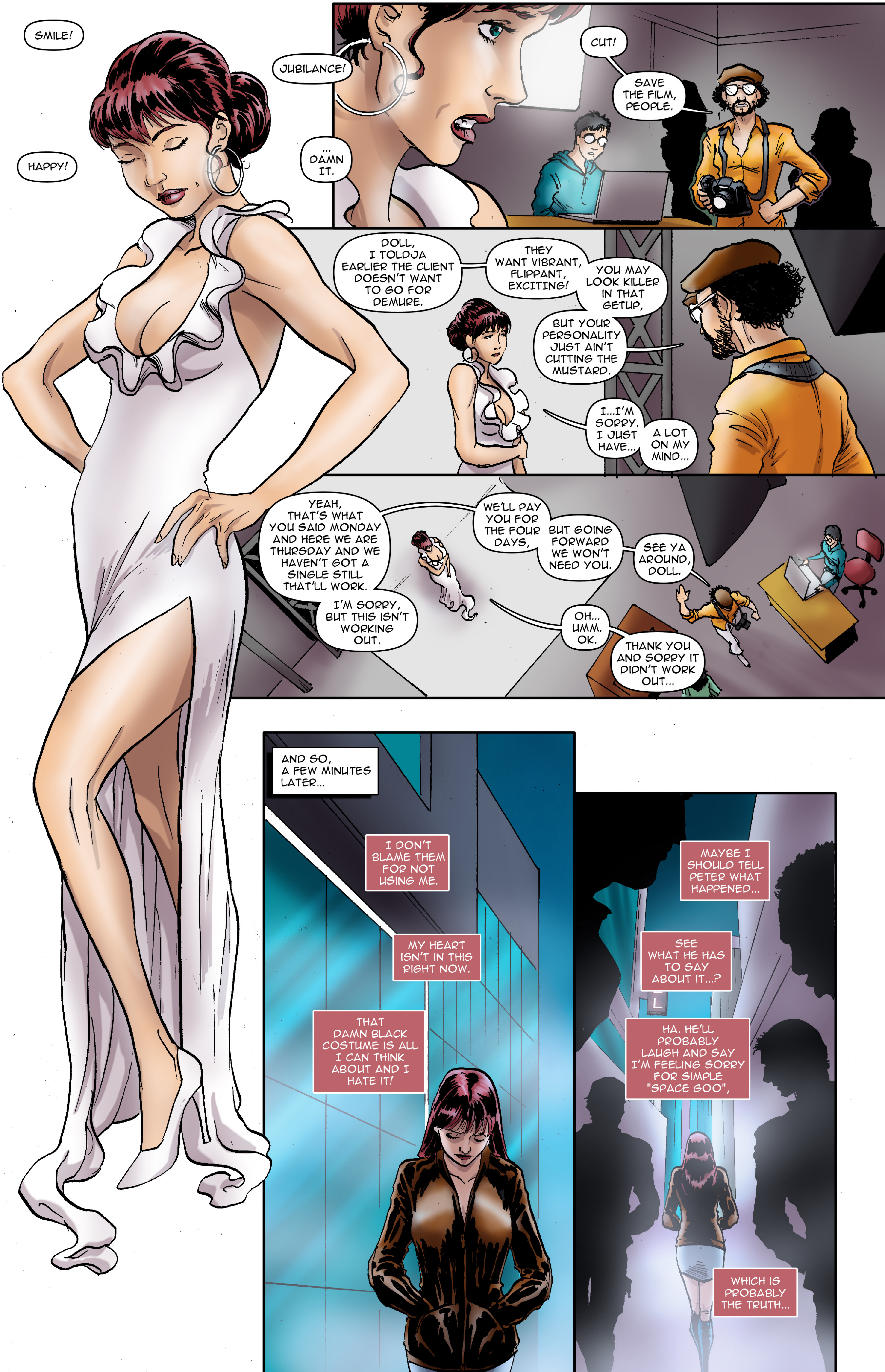

SO IT CAN CHANGE IT'S APPEARANCE,
IT GIVES ME AWESOME AGILITY AND IT CAN FIRE WEBBING ...
WHAT ABOUT CLIMBING UP WALLS?
I'VE SEEN PETER DO THAT BEFORE A BUNCH!
YEP!
THIS SEEMS TO COME SECOND NATURE TO THE SUIT!
WHAT ABOUT STRENGTH?
I'VE SEEN PETER DO SOME PRETTY FANTASTICAL FEATS IN THE PAST...
IS THE SUIT CONFERRING THAT POWER TOO?
AMAZING!
I'M LIFTING THIS FULLY LOADED DUMPSTER LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!
THIS COSTUME IS ASTOUNDING!
IF PETEY WANTED TO PATENT IT AND...
WAIT... WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION AT THE END OF THE ALLEY...?
OK OK... WE CAN WORK THIS OUT...!
YEAH, HAND OVER YOUR WALLET AND THAT WATCH!
YOU HEARD HIM...
DO IT BEFORE WE PULP YOUR FACE, GRANDPA!
THOSE PUNKS ARE ROBBING THAT OTHER MAN BLIND!
I... I ... I HAVE TO HELP!
DOUBLE CHECK THOSE POCKETS!
PAPS HERE PROBABLY HAS A FAT STACK SOMEWHERE!
UGH...!
YEAH YEAH...
JUST HOLD HIM STEADY!

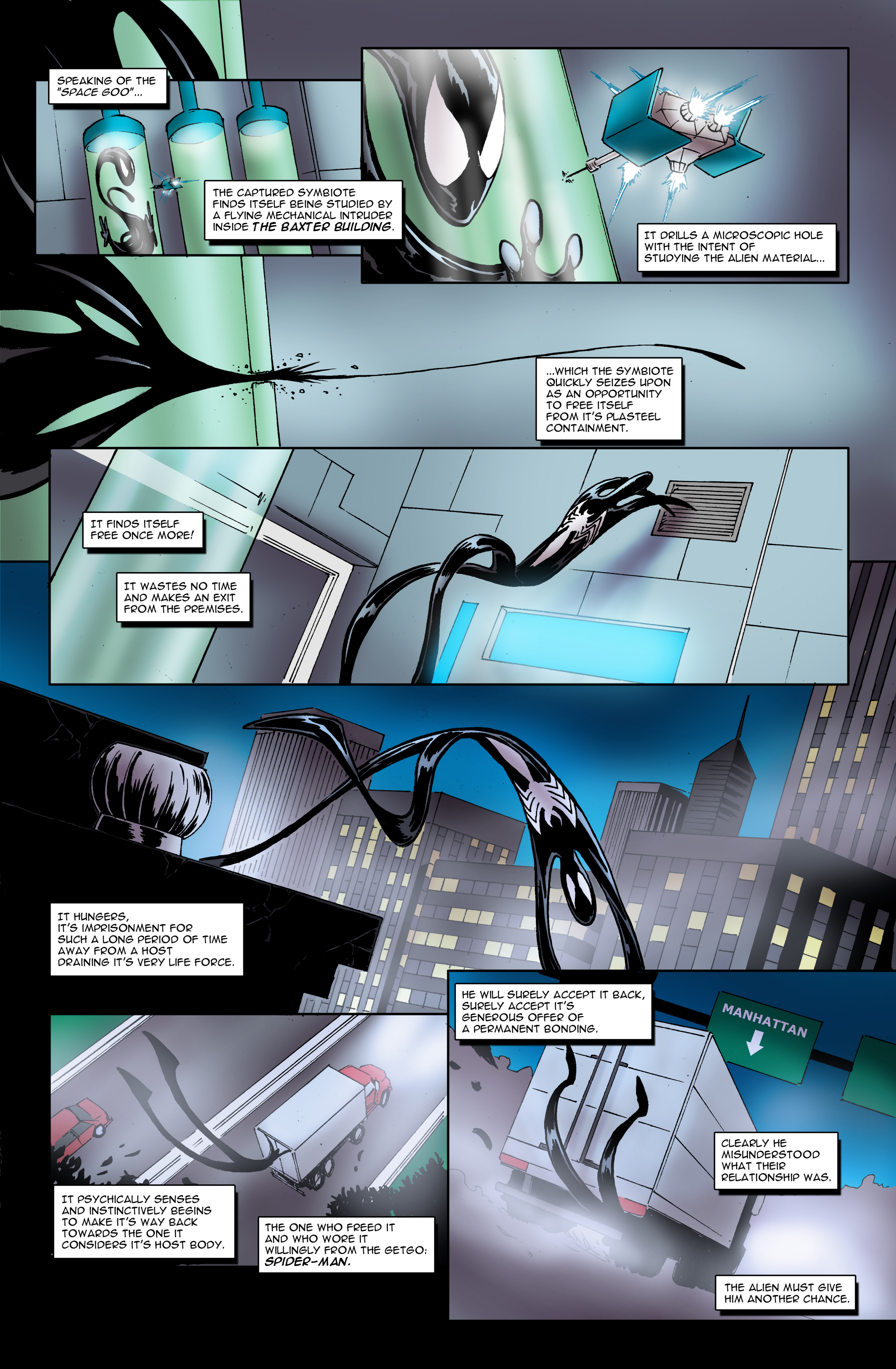

UMM...
HEY YOU THERE!
STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
WHA...?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE, LADY?
YOU MAY BE DRESSED LIKE HIM,
BUT YOU AIN'T NO SPIDER-MAN!
YOU DEFINITELY LOOK BETTER THEN HIM THOUGH THAT'S FOR CERTAIN! HAHAA!
TELL YOU WHAT, YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE,
YOU TAKE THE MASK OFF AND COME HERE AND DO ME SOME FAVORS...
HA! NOW YOU'RE TALKING!
LITTLE BIT O'COIN AND A LITLTE BIT O'ASS!
WHAT A NIGHT!
OH GREAT! NOW WHAT DO I DO...?
THE SUIT IS ACTING ON IT'S OWN AGAIN!
FIRING WEBBING,
ARRRGH!
WRAPPING HIM UP!
THE OTHER GUY HAS TURNED TAIL,
MAKING A RUN FOR IT!
I COULD JUST FIRE MORE WEBBING AT HIM...
WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT MY BACKSIDE...?
AHHH!
YOU CAN TAKE A NICE NAP UNTIL THE POLICE GET HERE!
THERE'S A PAY PHONE AROUND THE CORNER I THINK ...
YOU SHOULD CALL THE POLICE!
I WILL!
THANK YOU WHOEVER YOU ARE!

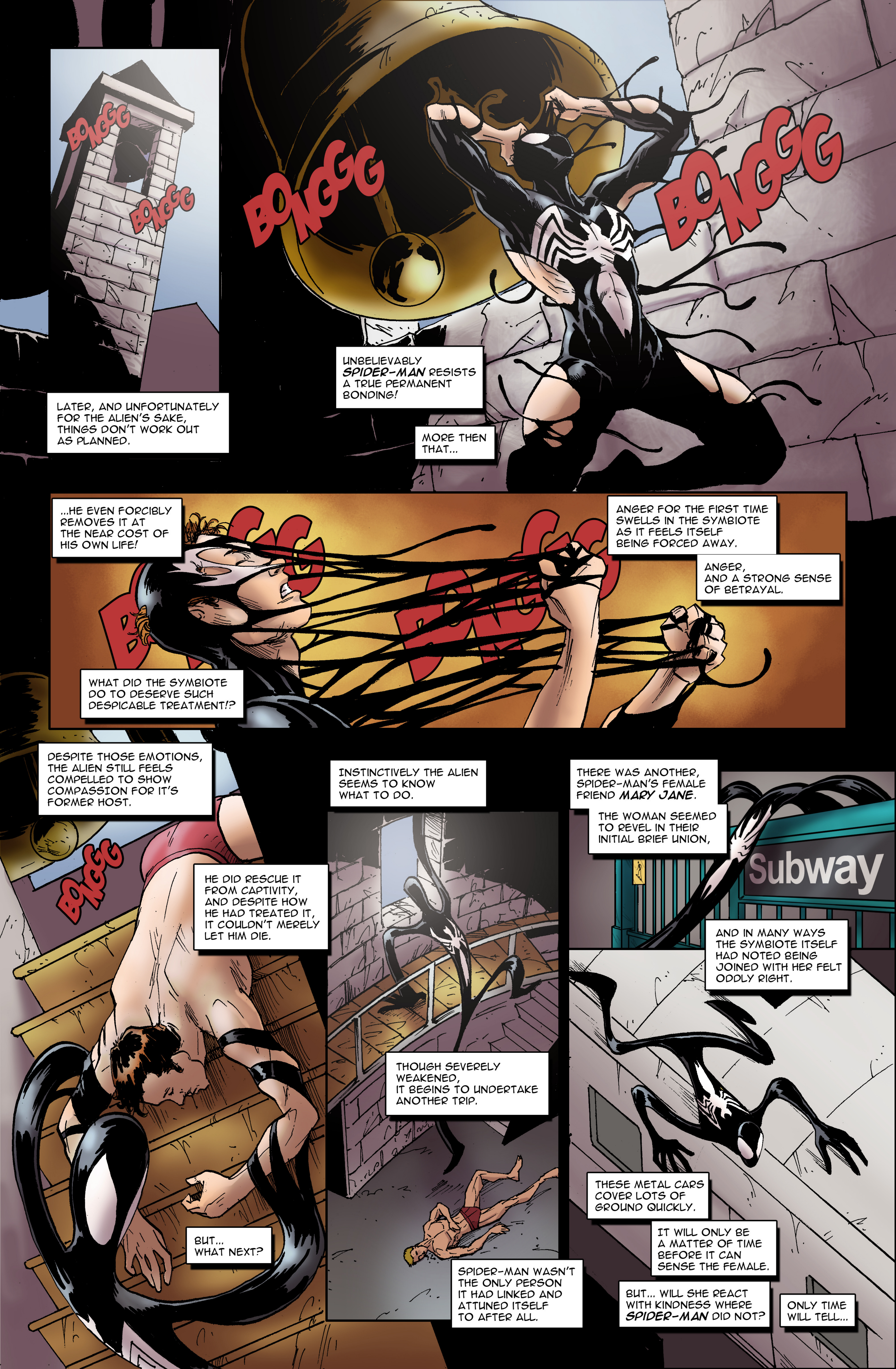

WOW,
SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING A SUPERHERO!
MY HEART IS ABOUT TO POUND THROUGH MY CHEST!
I ACTUALLY HELPED THAT POOR OLD MAN!
WAY TO GO ME!
JUST LOOK AT THAT!
IT'S LIKE A WHOLE OTHER UNIVERSE UP HERE AT NIGHT!
ALL THE TWINKLING LIGHTS, THE NOISES, THE SMELLS.
IT'S DOWNRIGHT MAGICAL!
I COULD GET QUITE USED TO...
UH... WAIT A MINUTE...
THE SUIT IS FIRING WEBBING AGAIN?!
IT'S BRINGING US BACK TO PETERS APARTMENT I THINK....
AND WE ARE IN QUITE A RUSH!
NOW WHAT...?
WE WERE IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET HERE AND...
I SEE.
IT BROUGHT ME BACK HERE SO IT COULD LEAVE.
BUMMER.

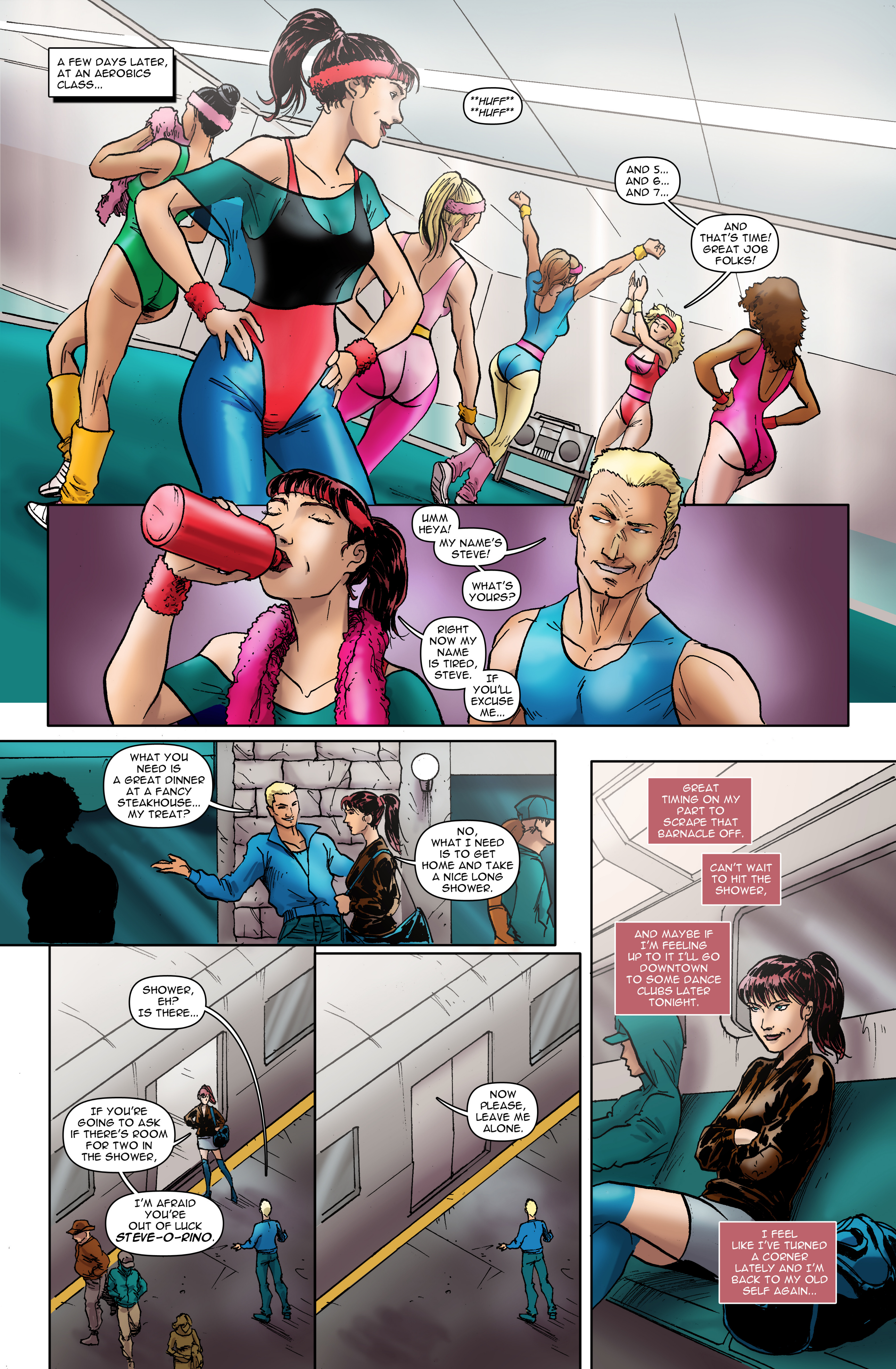

IT'S PUTTING ITSELF BACK ONTO CHAIR...
INTERESTING.
I WONDER IF IT'S ON A TIMER OR SOMETHING?
I HAD BETTER SKEDADDLE.
LOOKS LIKE PETEY IS WAKING UP,
AND IT'D BE ALL KINDS OF AWKWARD FOR ME TO BE CAUGHT HERE LIKE THIS.
MAYBE I COULD TALK PETER INTO LETTING ME BORROW THAT THING?
I MEAN, IT COULD ONLY HELP IF THE BOTH OF US HAD ACCESS TO IT, RIGHT?
HECK, MAYBE HE WOULD LET ME KEEP THAT ONE AND HE COULD USE THE RED+BLUE VARIANT AND WE COULD BE A TEAM?
I THINK I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!
HERE YA GO.
IT'LL PROBABLY DO YOU BETTER THEN ME!
THANKS LADY!
I'LL TALK TO PETER LATER...
CASUALLY BRING UP BORROWING THE SUIT ONCE I REVEAL I KNOW HE'S SPIDER-MAN...
SEE WHAT HAPPENS...
BUT FOR NOW...
I HAD BETTER GET HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP.

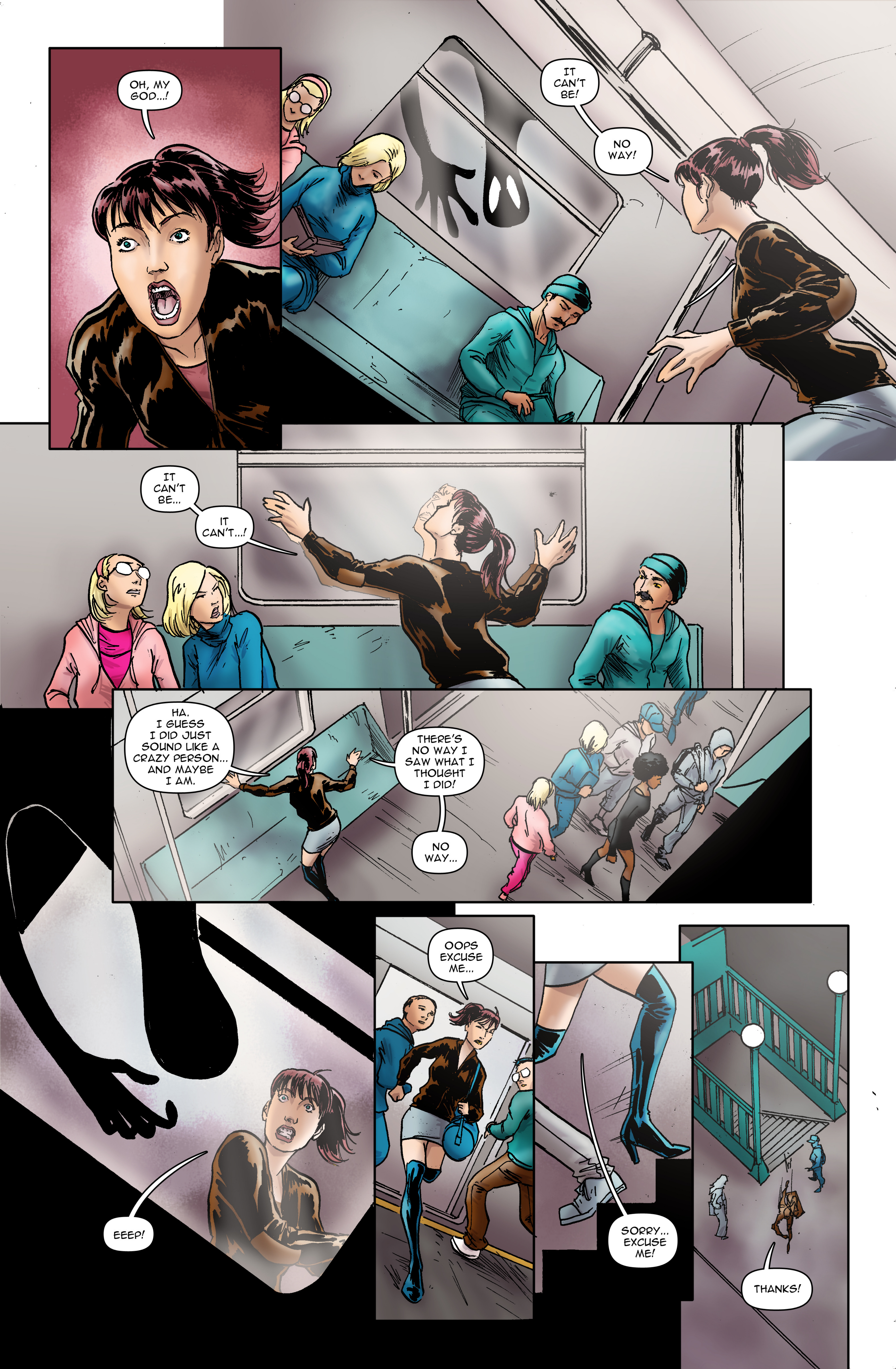

AND SO, A FEW DAYSLATER...
AFTER THE MONUMENTAL SECRET IDENTITY TALK OCCURS...
MJ DECIDES TO BROACH THE BLACK COSTUME SUBJECT...
Y'KNOW PETEY...
I'VE BEEN RAMBLING SO MUCH ABOUT MY PAST,
I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD HOW EXACTLY YOU DO YOUR UH...
SPIDER...
STUFF...
WELL,
THERE WAS THIS WEIRD LAB ACCIDENT INVOLVING A SPIDER AND A RADIOACTIVE PULSE BEAM AND...
OH! SO UM....
YOU GOT YOUR POWERS FROM A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER-BITE...
AND NOT FROM YOUR SUIT...
MY SUIT? NO.
THE POWERS ARE INHERENT FROM THAT SPIDER THAT BIT ME.
THE SUITS ARE JUST SUITS.
WELL...
THAT ISN'T ENTIRELY TRUE.
JUST A FEW DAYS AGO I DID JUST HAVE A SCARY MOMENT WITH THAT BLACK SUIT I WAS WEARING!
TURNS OUT THE THING IS ALIVE AND WAS TRYING TO PERMANENTLY BOND ITSELF TO ME!
CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT!
I GOT THE THING ON THE OTHER END OF THE UNIVERSE,
SO I GUESS I SHOULD'VE HAD IT CHECKED OUT EARLIER THEN I DID!
OH ... UMM WOW!
AND UH..
UH... ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS TO HAVING WORN IT?
SIDE EFFECTS?
WHO KNOWS...
I HOPE NOT, ANYWAYS.
WHAT UH...
HAPPENED TO IT?
REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR FORCED IT OFF ME AND IS HOLDING IT FOR STUDY RIGHT NOW...
AND HE CAN DISSECT THE THING FOR ALL I CARE!
DISSECT?!
THAT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR, DOES IT!!?
WHAT EXACTLY DID IT DO TO HURT YOU?
WOAH!
IT'S JUST SOME OUTER SPACE GOO, MJ!
AND DID YOU JUST MISS THE PART ABOUT IT TRYING TO PERMANENTLY BOND WITH ME?
IT COULD'VE TURNED ME INTO A MONSTER AND MADE ME IT'S SLAVE!
YEAH...
I'M SORRY.
I JUST...
GUESS I'M CREEPED OUT BY THE WHOLE IDEA...
YOU AND ME BOTH!
C'MON, LET'S GRAB SOME FOOD.
I'M STARVED.
HOTDOG

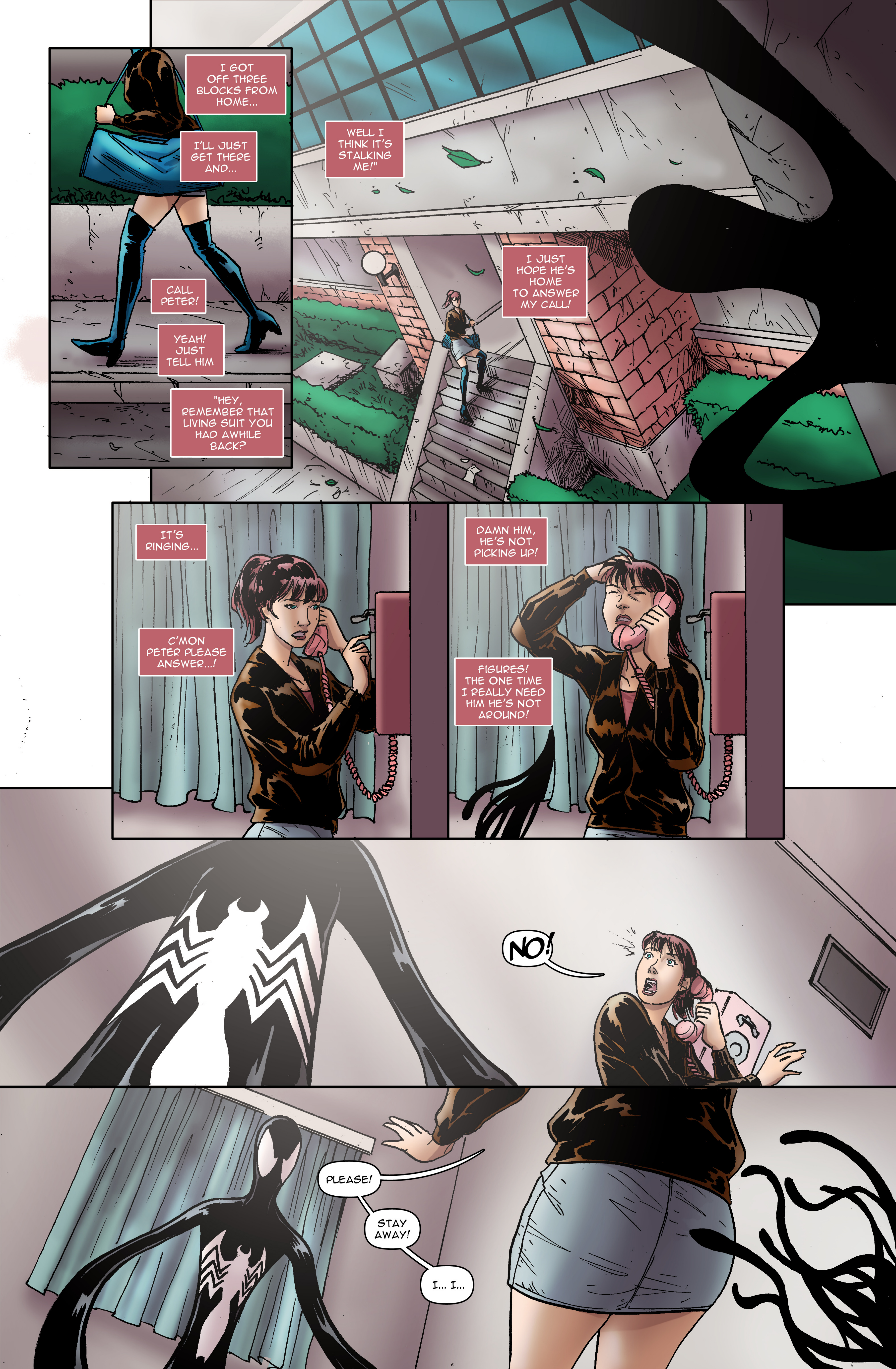

SMILE!
HAPPY!
JUBILANCE!
... DAMN IT.
CUT!
SAVE THE FILM, PEOPLE.
DOLL, I TOLDJA EARLIER THE CLIENT DOESN'T WANT TO GO FOR DEMURE.
THEY WANT VIBRANT, FLIPPANT, EXCITING!
YOU MAY LOOK KILLER IN THAT GETUP,
BUT YOUR PERSONALITY JUST AIN'T CUTTING THE MUSTARD.
I...I'M SORRY. I JUST HAVE...
A LOT ON MY MIND...
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID MONDAY AND HERE WE ARE THURSDAY AND WE HAVEN'T GOT A SINGLE STILL THAT'LL WORK.
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS ISN'T WORKING OUT.
WE'LL PAY YOU FOR THE FOUR DAYS,
BUT GOING FORWARD WE WON'T NEED YOU.
SEE YA AROUND, DOLL.
OH... UMM. OK.
THANK YOU AND SORRY IT DIDN'T WORK OUT...
AND SO, A FEW MINUTES LATER...
I DON'T BLAME THEM FOR NOT USING ME.
MY HEART ISN'T IN THIS RIGHT NOW.
THAT DAMN BLACK COSTUME IS ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT AND I HATE IT!
MAYBE I SHOULD TELL PETER WHAT HAPPENED...
SEE WHAT HE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT...?
HA. HE'LL PROBABLY LAUGH AND SAY I'M FEELING SORRY FOR SIMPLE "SPACE GOO",
WHICH IS PROBABLY THE TRUTH...

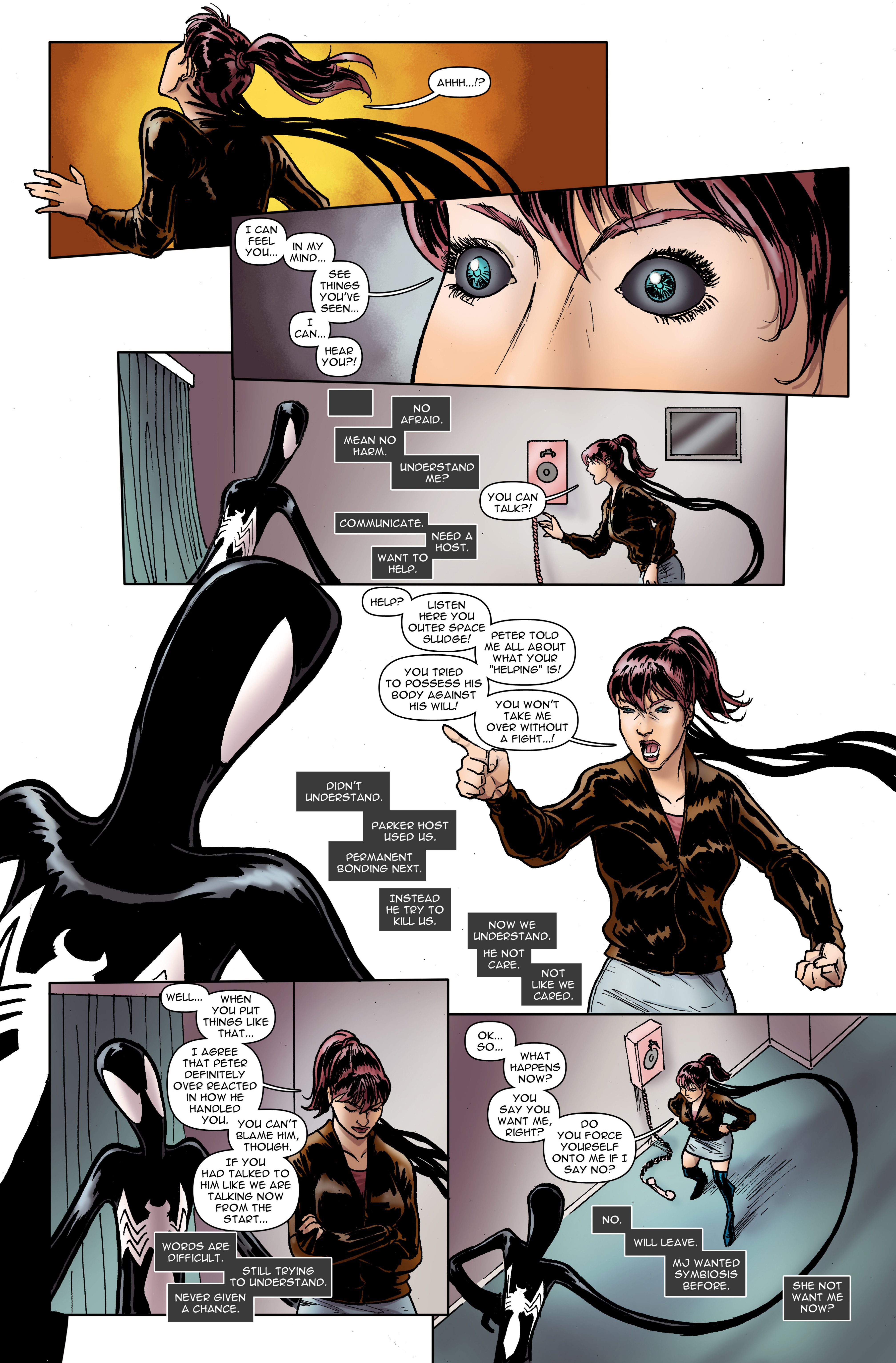

SPEAKING OF THE "SPACE GOO"...
THE CAPTURED SYMBIOTE FINDS ITSELF BEING STUDIED BY A FLYING MECHANICAL INTRUDER INSIDE ***THE BAXTER BUILDING***.
IT DRILLS A MICROSCOPIC HOLE WITH THE INTENT OF STUDYING THE ALIEN MATERIAL...
...WHICH THE SYMBIOTE QUICKLY SEIZES UPON AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO FREE ITSELF FROM IT'S PLASTEEL CONTAINMENT.
IT FINDS ITSELF FREE ONCE MORE!
IT WASTES NO TIME AND MAKES AN EXIT FROM THE PREMISES.
IT HUNGERS, IT'S IMPRISONMENT FOR SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AWAY FROM A HOST DRAINING IT'S VERY LIFE FORCE.
HE WILL SURELY ACCEPT IT BACK, SURELY ACCEPT IT'S GENEROUS OFFER OF A PERMANENT BONDING.
MANHATTAN
IT PSYCHICALLY SENSES AND INSTINCTIVELY BEGINS TO MAKE IT'S WAY BACK TOWARDS THE ONE IT CONSIDERS IT'S HOST BODY.
THE ONE WHO FREED IT AND WHO WORE IT WILLINGLY FROM THE GETGO: ***SPIDER-MAN.***
CLEARLY HE MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS.
THE ALIEN MUST GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE.

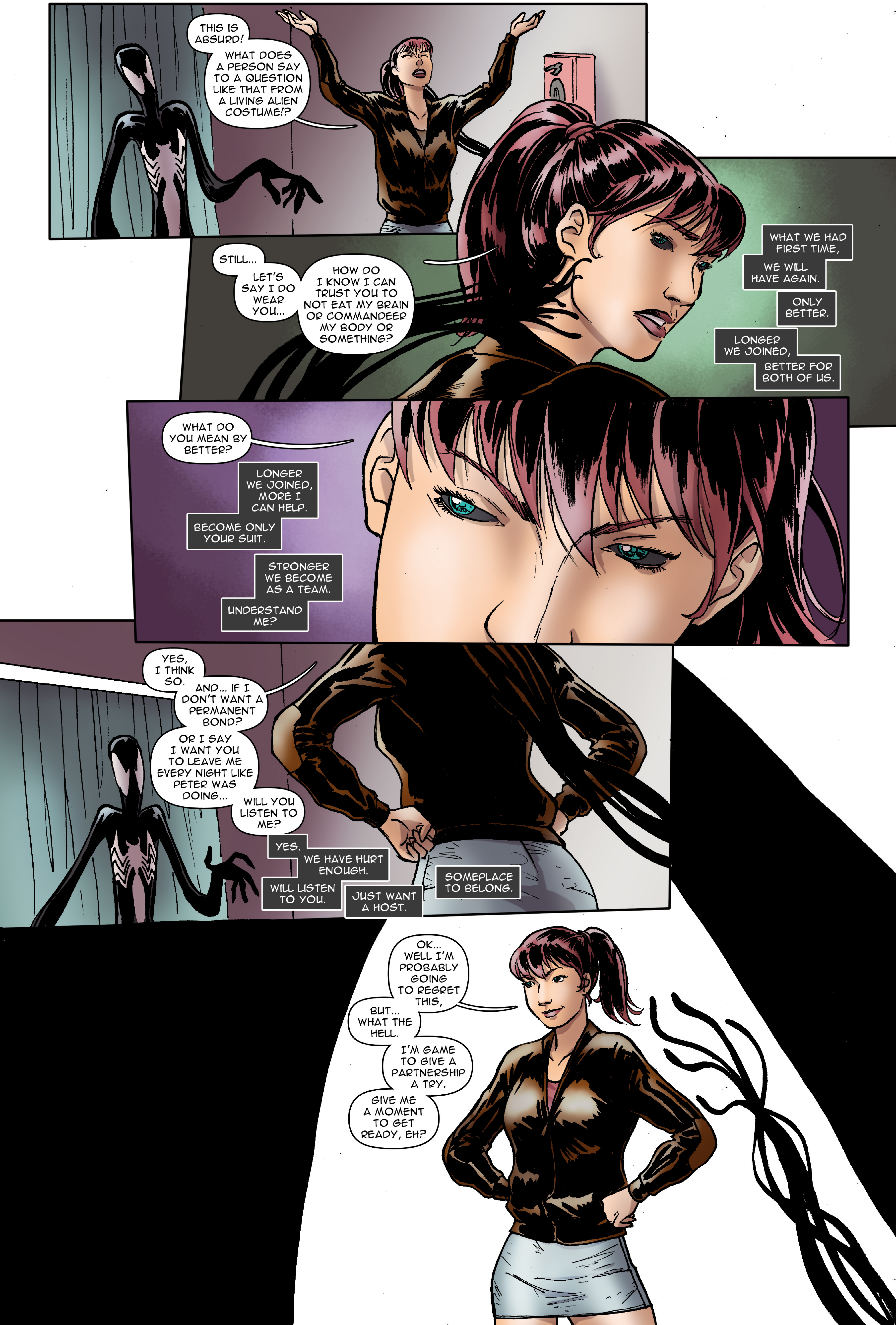

BONGGG
BONGGG
LATER, AND UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE ALIEN'S SAKE, THINGS DON'T WORK OUT AS PLANNED.
BONGGG
BONGGG
UNBELIEVABLY **SPIDER-MAN** RESISTS A TRUE PERMANENT BONDING!
MORE THEN THAT...
...HE EVEN FORCIBLY REMOVES IT AT THE NEAR COST OF HIS OWN LIFE!
ANGER FOR THE FIRST TIME SWELLS IN THE SYMBIOTE AS IT FEELS ITSELF BEING FORCED AWAY.
ANGER, AND A STRONG SENSE OF BETRAYAL.
WHAT DID THE SYMBIOTE DO TO DESERVE SUCH DESPICABLE TREATMENT!?
DESPITE THOSE EMOTIONS, THE ALIEN STILL FEELS COMPELLED TO SHOW COMPASSION FOR IT'S FORMER HOST.
BONGGG
HE DID RESCUE IT FROM CAPTIVITY, AND DESPITE HOW HE HAD TREATED IT, IT COULDN'T MERELY LET HIM DIE.
BUT... WHAT NEXT?
INSTINCTIVELY THE ALIEN SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THOUGH SEVERELY WEAKENED, IT BEGINS TO UNDERTAKE ANOTHER TRIP.
SPIDER-MAN WASN'T THE ONLY PERSON IT HAD LINKED AND ATTUNED ITSELF TO AFTER ALL.
THERE WAS ANOTHER, SPIDER-MAN'S FEMALE FRIEND **MARY JANE**.
THE WOMAN SEEMED TO REVEL IN THEIR INITIAL BRIEF UNION,
Subway
AND IN MANY WAYS THE SYMBIOTE ITSELF HAD NOTED BEING JOINED WITH HER FELT ODDLY RIGHT.
THESE METAL CARS COVER LOTS OF GROUND QUICKLY.
IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT CAN SENSE THE FEMALE.
BUT... WILL SHE REACT WITH KINDNESS WHERE **SPIDER-MAN** DID NOT?
ONLY TIME WILL TELL...

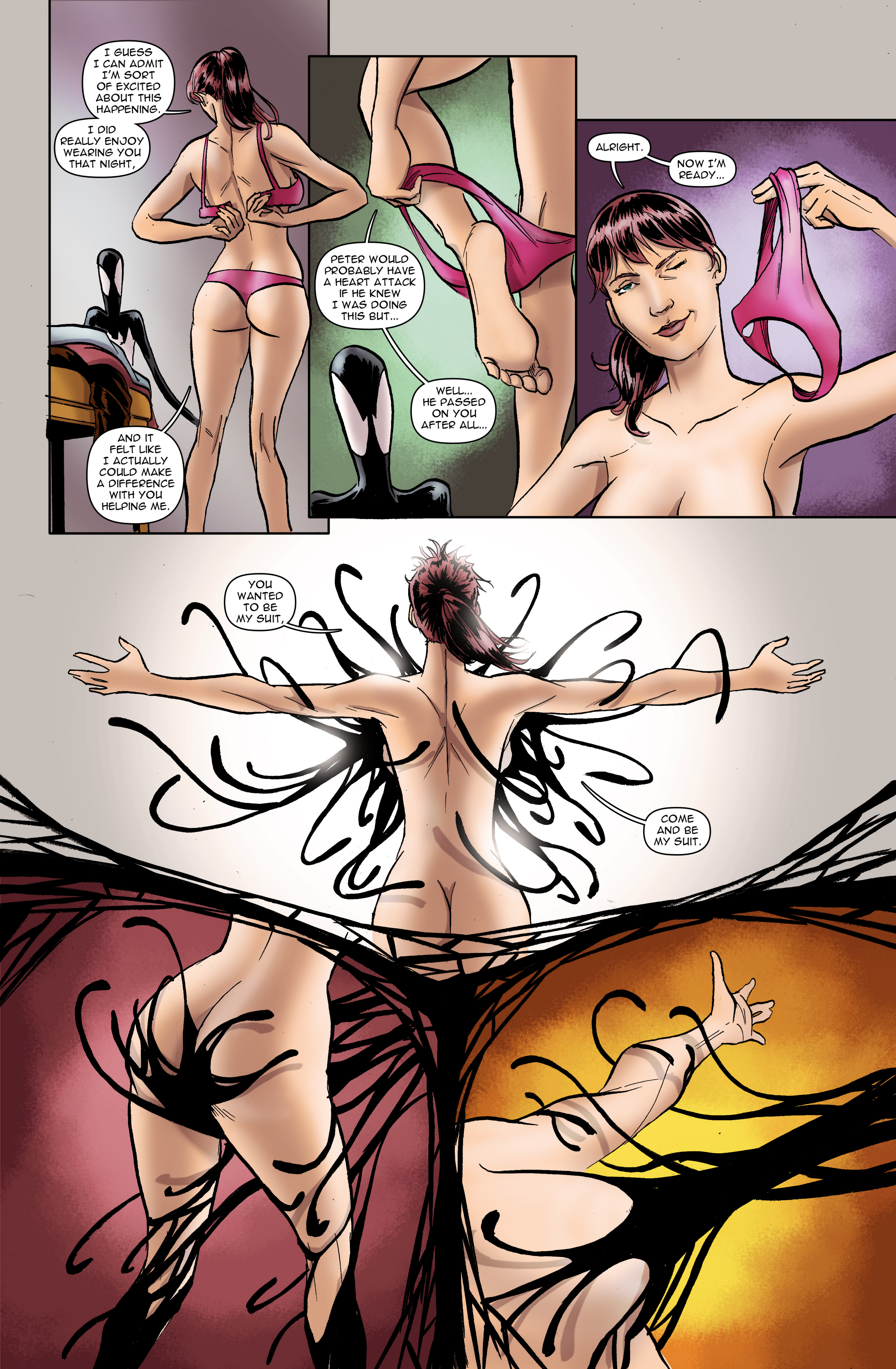

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT AN AEROBICS CLASS...
HUFF **HUFF**
AND 5... AND 6... AND 7...
AND THAT'S TIME! GREAT JOB FOLKS!
UMM HEYA!
MY NAME'S STEVE!
WHAT'S YOURS?
RIGHT NOW MY NAME IS TIRED, STEVE.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
WHAT YOU NEED IS A GREAT DINNER AT A FANCY STEAKHOUSE... MY TREAT?
NO, WHAT I NEED IS TO GET HOME AND TAKE A NICE LONG SHOWER.
SHOWER, EH? IS THERE...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO ASK IF THERE'S ROOM FOR TWO IN THE SHOWER,
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK STEVE-O-RINO.
NOW PLEASE, LEAVE ME ALONE.
GREAT TIMING ON MY PART TO SCRAPE THAT BARNACLE OFF.
CAN'T WAIT TO HIT THE SHOWER,
AND MAYBE IF I'M FEELING UP TO IT I'LL GO DOWNTOWN TO SOME DANCE CLUBS LATER TONIGHT.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE TURNED A CORNER LATELY AND I'M BACK TO MY OLD SELF AGAIN...

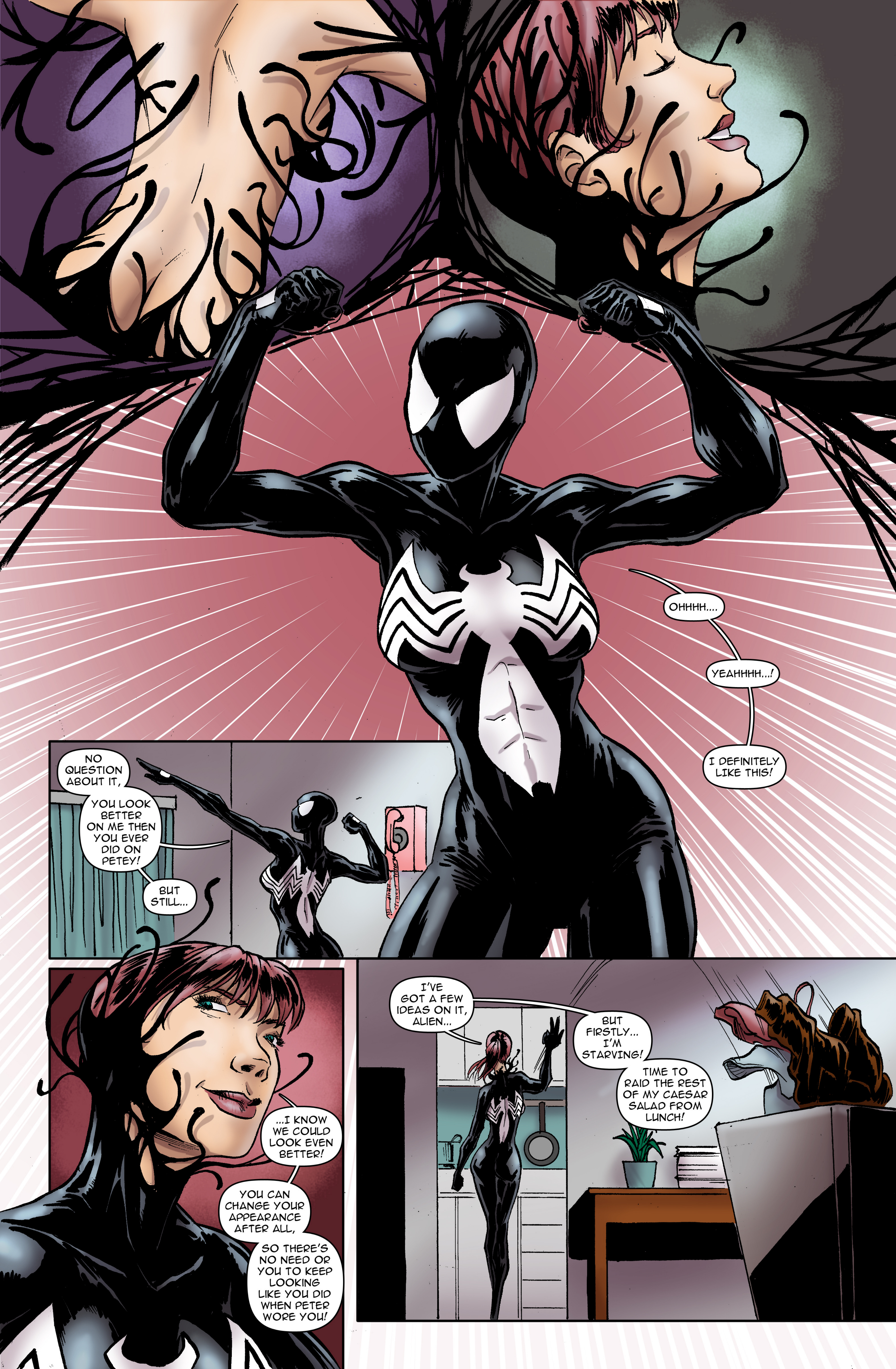

OH, MY GOD...!
IT CAN'T BE!
NO WAY!
IT CAN'T BE...
IT CAN'T...!
HA. I GUESS I DID JUST SOUND LIKE A CRAZY PERSON... AND MAYBE I AM.
THERE'S NO WAY I SAW WHAT I THOUGHT I DID!
NO WAY...
EEEP!
OOPS EXCUSE ME...
SORRY... EXCUSE ME!
THANKS!

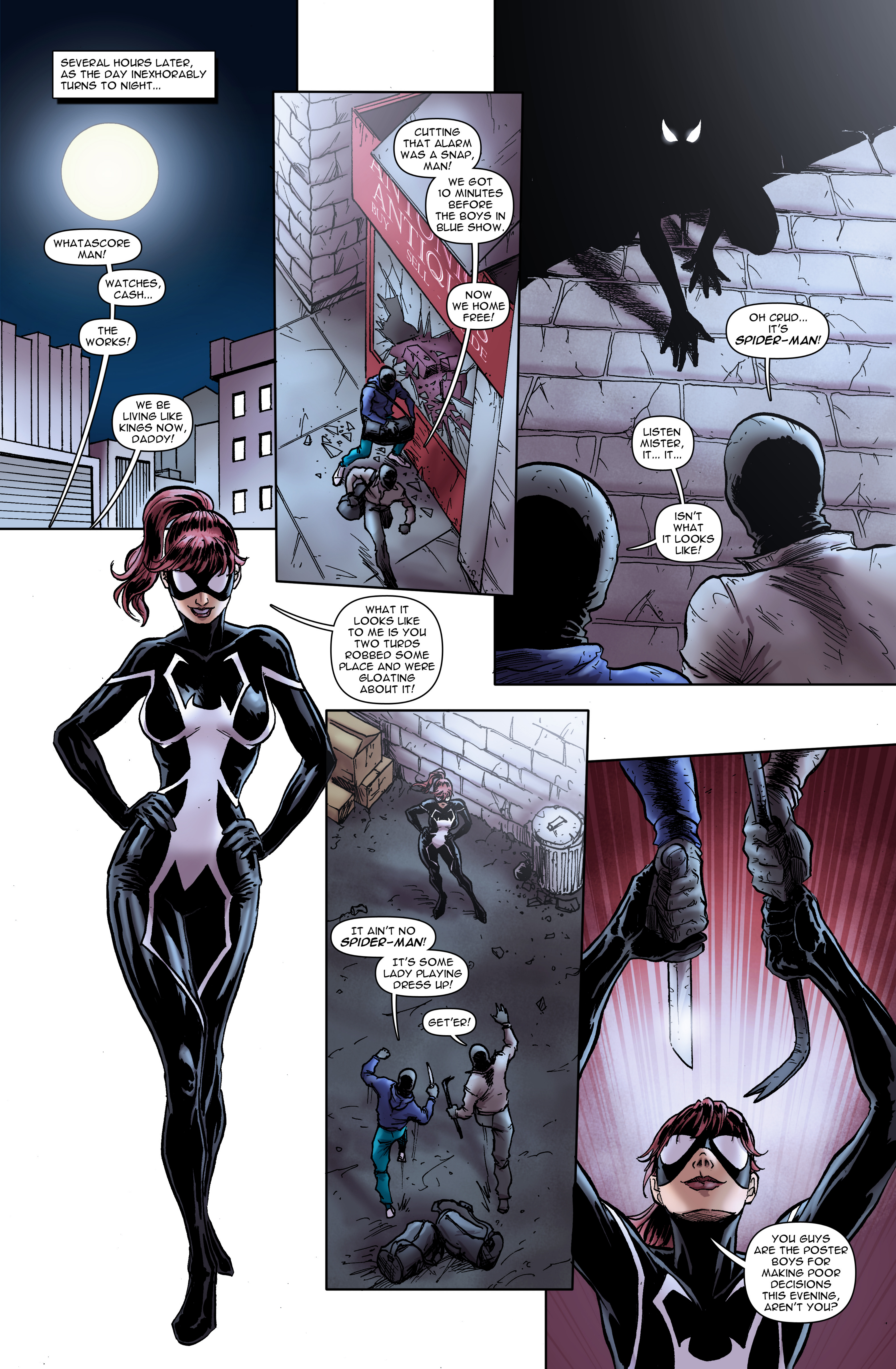

I GOT OFF THREE BLOCKS FROM HOME...
I'LL JUST GET THERE AND...
CALL PETER!
YEAH! JUST TELL HIM
"HEY, REMEMBER THAT LIVING SUIT YOU HAD AWHILE BACK?
WELL I THINK IT'S STALKING ME!"
I JUST HOPE HE'S HOME TO ANSWER MY CALL!
IT'S RINGING...
C'MON PETER PLEASE ANSWER...!
DAMN HIM, HE'S NOT PICKING UP!
FIGURES! THE ONE TIME I REALLY NEED HIM HE'S NOT AROUND!
NO!
PLEASE!
STAY AWAY!
I... I...

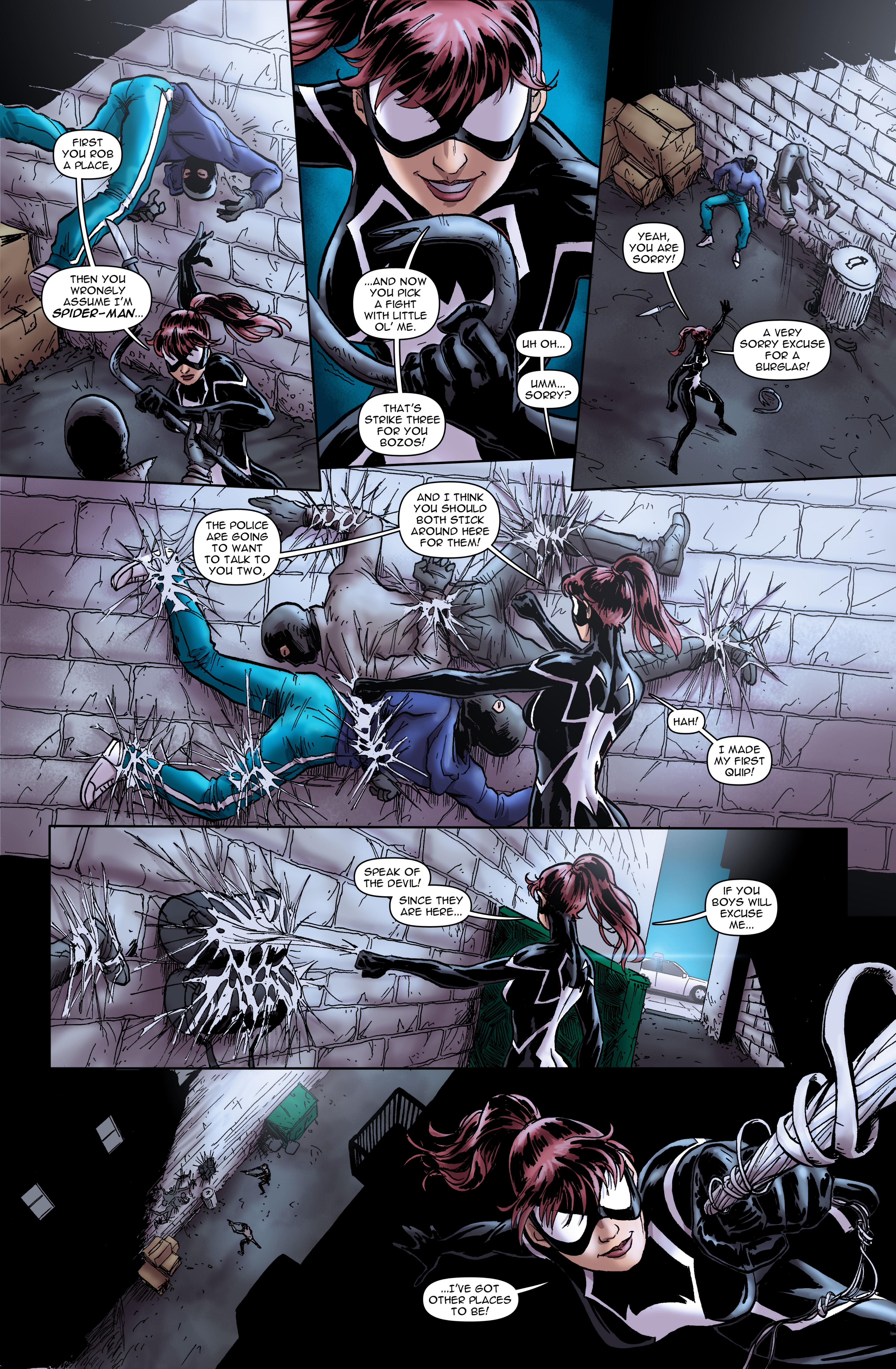

AHHH...!?
I CAN FEEL YOU...
IN MY MIND...
SEE THINGS YOU'VE SEEN...
I CAN...
HEAR YOU?!
NO AFRAID.
MEAN NO HARM.
UNDERSTAND ME?
YOU CAN TALK?!
COMMUNICATE.
NEED A HOST.
WANT TO HELP.
HELP?
LISTEN HERE YOU OUTER SPACE SLUDGE!
PETER TOLD ME ALL ABOUT WHAT YOUR "HELPING" IS!
YOU TRIED TO POSSESS HIS BODY AGAINST HIS WILL!
YOU WON'T TAKE ME OVER WITHOUT A FIGHT...!
DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
PARKER HOST USED US.
PERMANENT BONDING NEXT.
INSTEAD HE TRY TO KILL US.
NOW WE UNDERSTAND.
HE NOT CARE.
NOT LIKE WE CARED.
WELL...
WHEN YOU PUT THINGS LIKE THAT...
I AGREE THAT PETER DEFINITELY OVER REACTED IN HOW HE HANDLED YOU.
YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM, THOUGH.
IF YOU HAD TALKED TO HIM LIKE WE ARE TALKING NOW FROM THE START...
WORDS ARE DIFFICULT.
STILL TRYING TO UNDERSTAND.
NEVER GIVEN A CHANCE.
OK... SO...
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
YOU SAY YOU WANT ME, RIGHT?
DO YOU FORCE YOURSELF ONTO ME IF I SAY NO?
NO.
WILL LEAVE.
MJ WANTED SYMBIOSIS BEFORE.
SHE NOT WANT ME NOW?

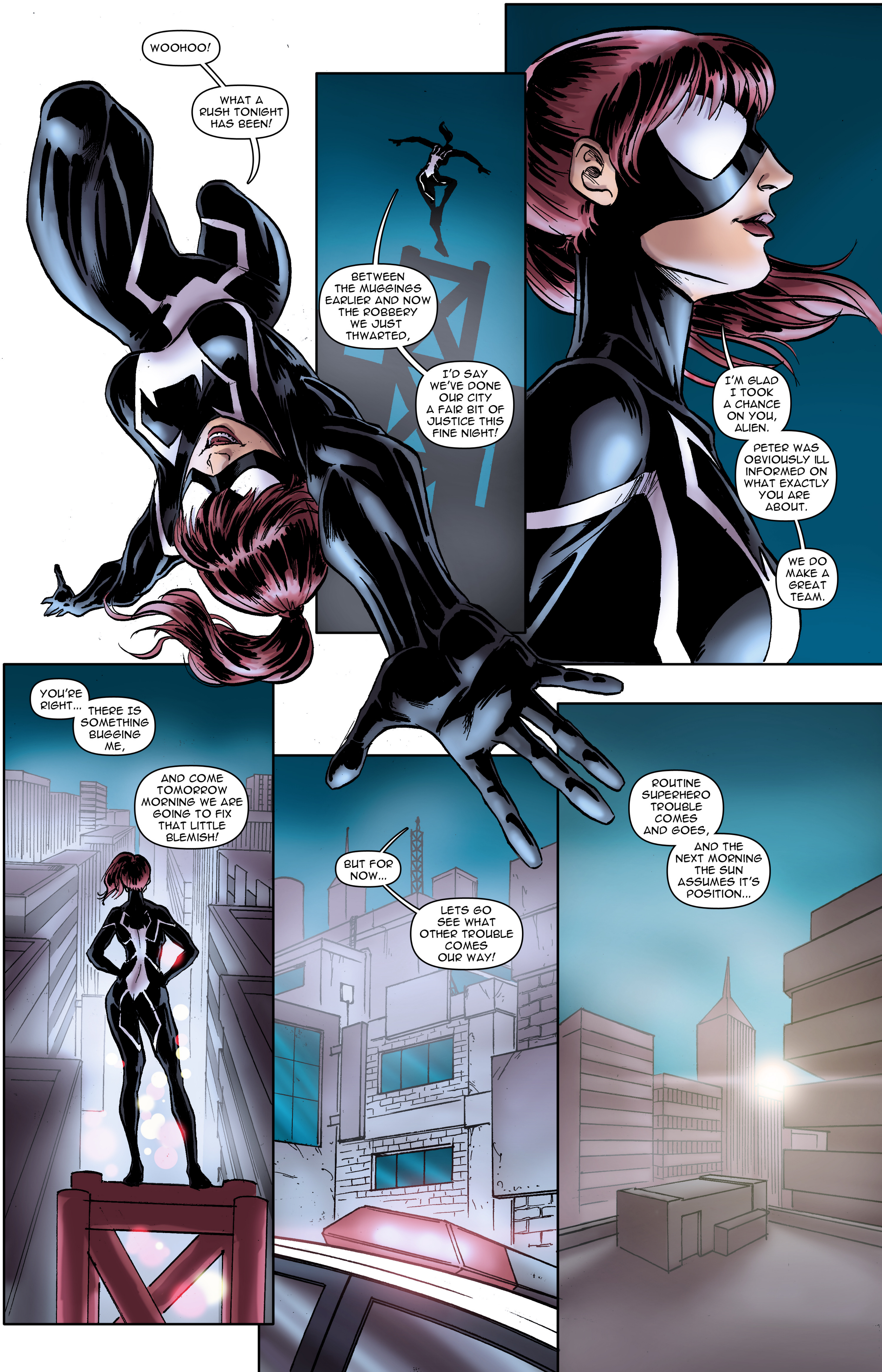

THIS IS ABSURD!
WHAT DOES A PERSON SAY TO A QUESTION LIKE THAT FROM A LIVING ALIEN COSTUME!?
STILL...
LET'S SAY I DO WEAR YOU...
HOW DO I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU TO NOT EAT MY BRAIN OR COMMANDEER MY BODY OR SOMETHING?
WHAT WE HAD FIRST TIME,
WE WILL HAVE AGAIN.
ONLY BETTER.
LONGER WE JOINED,
BETTER FOR BOTH OF US.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY BETTER?
LONGER WE JOINED, MORE I CAN HELP.
BECOME ONLY YOUR SUIT.
STRONGER WE BECOME AS A TEAM.
UNDERSTAND ME?
YES, I THINK SO.
AND... IF I DON'T WANT A PERMANENT BOND?
OR I SAY I WANT YOU TO LEAVE ME EVERY NIGHT LIKE PETER WAS DOING...
WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME?
YES.
WE HAVE HURT ENOUGH.
WILL LISTEN TO YOU.
JUST WANT A HOST.
SOMEPLACE TO BELONG.
OK... WELL I'M PROBABLY GOING TO REGRET THIS,
BUT... WHAT THE HELL.
I'M GAME TO GIVE A PARTNERSHIP A TRY.
GIVE ME A MOMENT TO GET READY, EH?

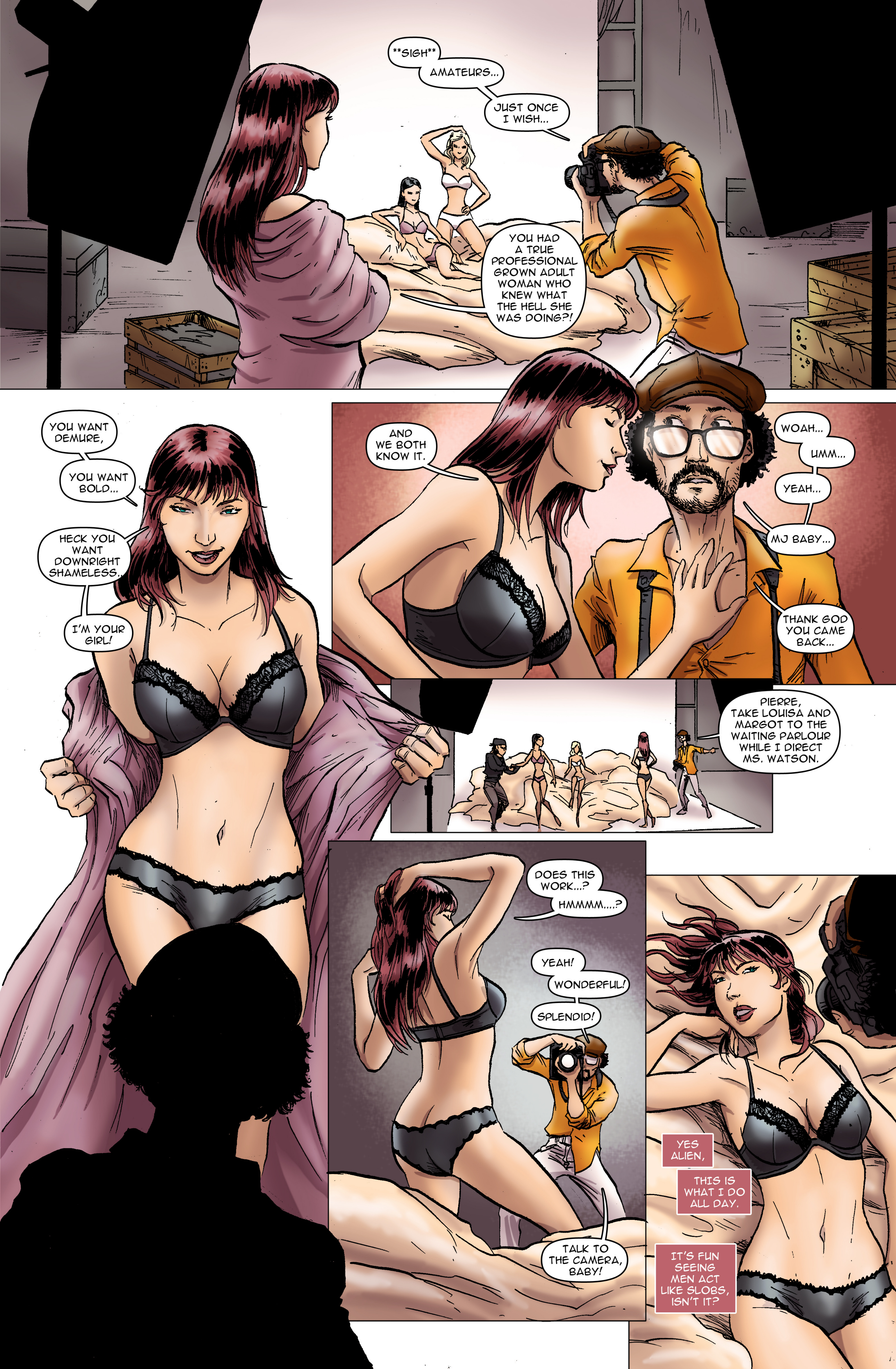

I GUESS I CAN ADMIT I'M SORT OF EXCITED ABOUT THIS HAPPENING.
I DID REALLY ENJOY WEARING YOU THAT NIGHT,
AND IT FELT LIKE I ACTUALLY COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH YOU HELPING ME.
PETER WOULD PROBABLY HAVE A HEART ATTACK IF HE KNEW I WAS DOING THIS BUT...
WELL... HE PASSED ON YOU AFTER ALL...
ALRIGHT.
NOW I'M READY...
YOU WANTED TO BE MY SUIT,
COME AND BE MY SUIT.

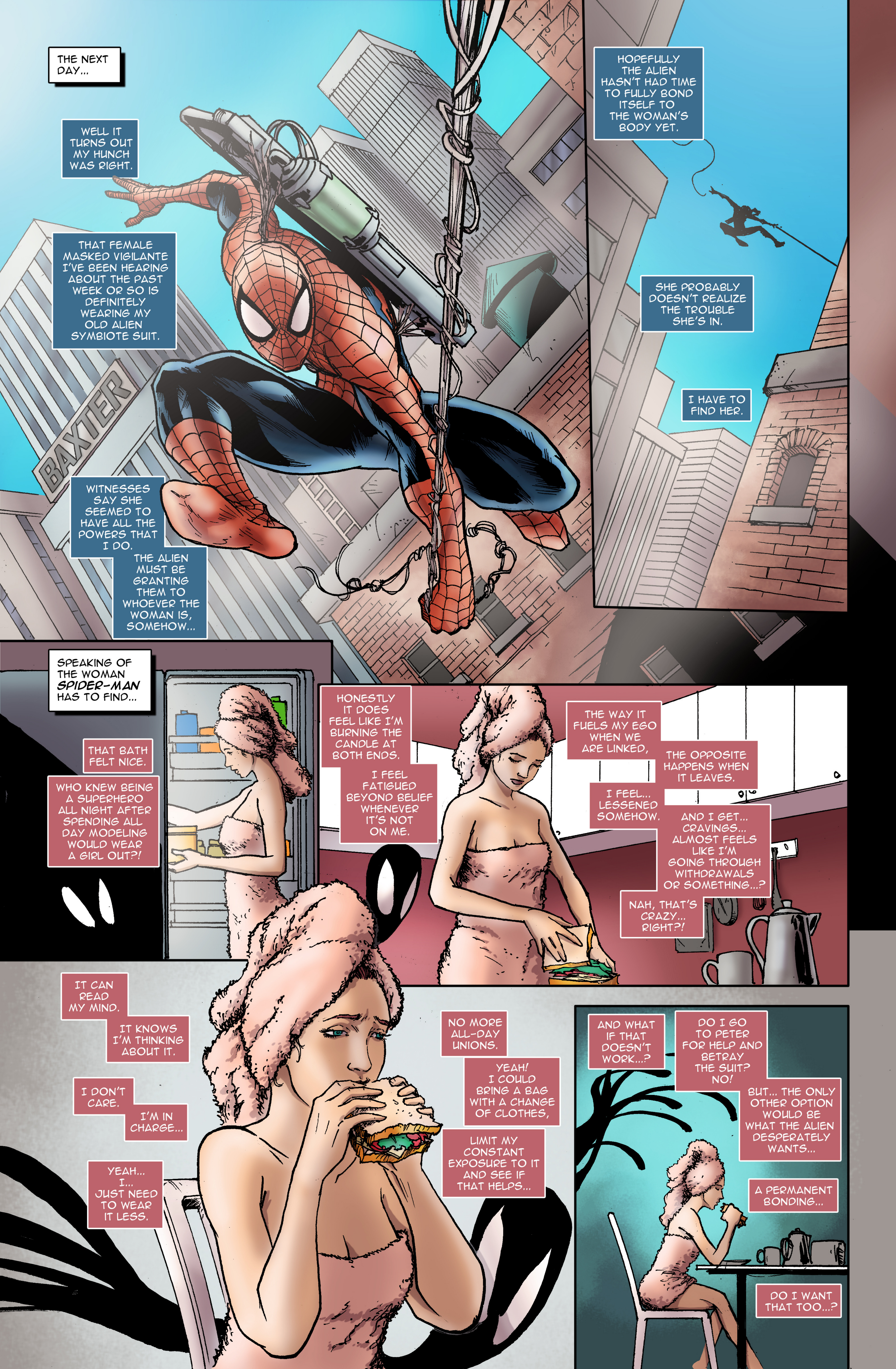

OHHHH....
YEAHHHH...!
I DEFINITELY LIKE THIS!
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT,
YOU LOOK BETTER ON ME THEN YOU EVER DID ON PETEY!
BUT STILL...
...I KNOW WE COULD LOOK EVEN BETTER!
YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR APPEARANCE AFTER ALL,
SO THERE'S NO NEED OR YOU TO KEEP LOOKING LIKE YOU DID WHEN PETER WORE YOU!
I'VE GOT A FEW IDEAS ON IT, ALIEN...
BUT FIRSTLY... I'M STARVING!
TIME TO RAID THE REST OF MY CAESAR SALAD FROM LUNCH!

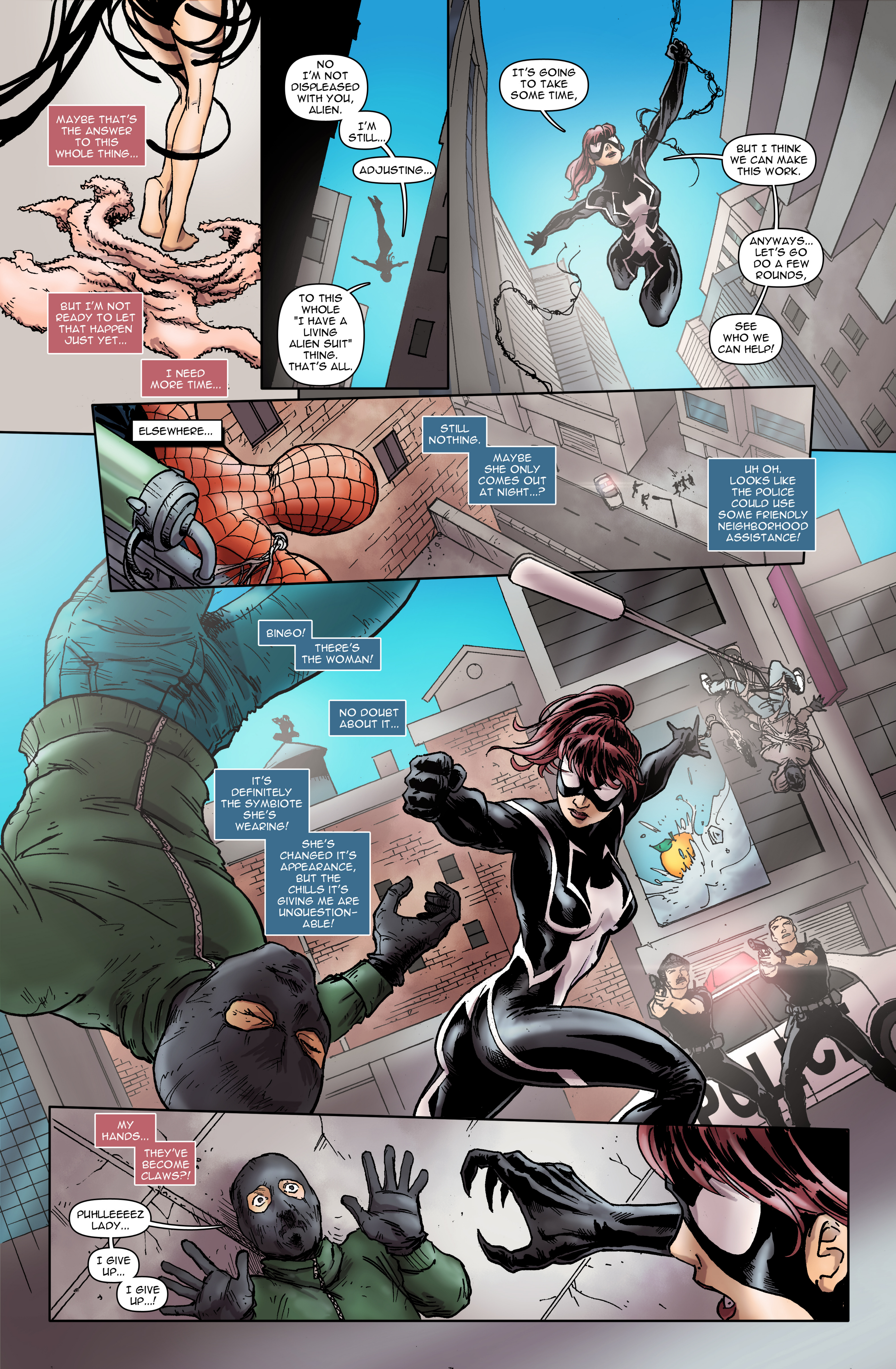

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, AS THE DAY INEXHORABLY TURNS TO NIGHT...
WHATASCORE MAN!
WATCHES, CASH...
THE WORKS!
WE BE LIVING LIKE KINGS NOW, DADDY!
CUTTING THAT ALARM WAS A SNAP, MAN!
WE GOT 10 MINUTES BEFORE THE BOYS IN BLUE SHOW.
NOW WE HOME FREE!
OH CRUD... IT'S **SPIDER-MAN!**
LISTEN MISTER, IT... IT...
ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO ME IS YOU TWO TURDS ROBBED SOME PLACE AND WERE GLOATING ABOUT IT!
IT AIN'T NO **SPIDER-MAN!**
IT'S SOME LADY PLAYING DRESS UP!
GET'ER!
YOU GUYS ARE THE POSTER BOYS FOR MAKING POOR DECISIONS THIS EVENING, AREN'T YOU?

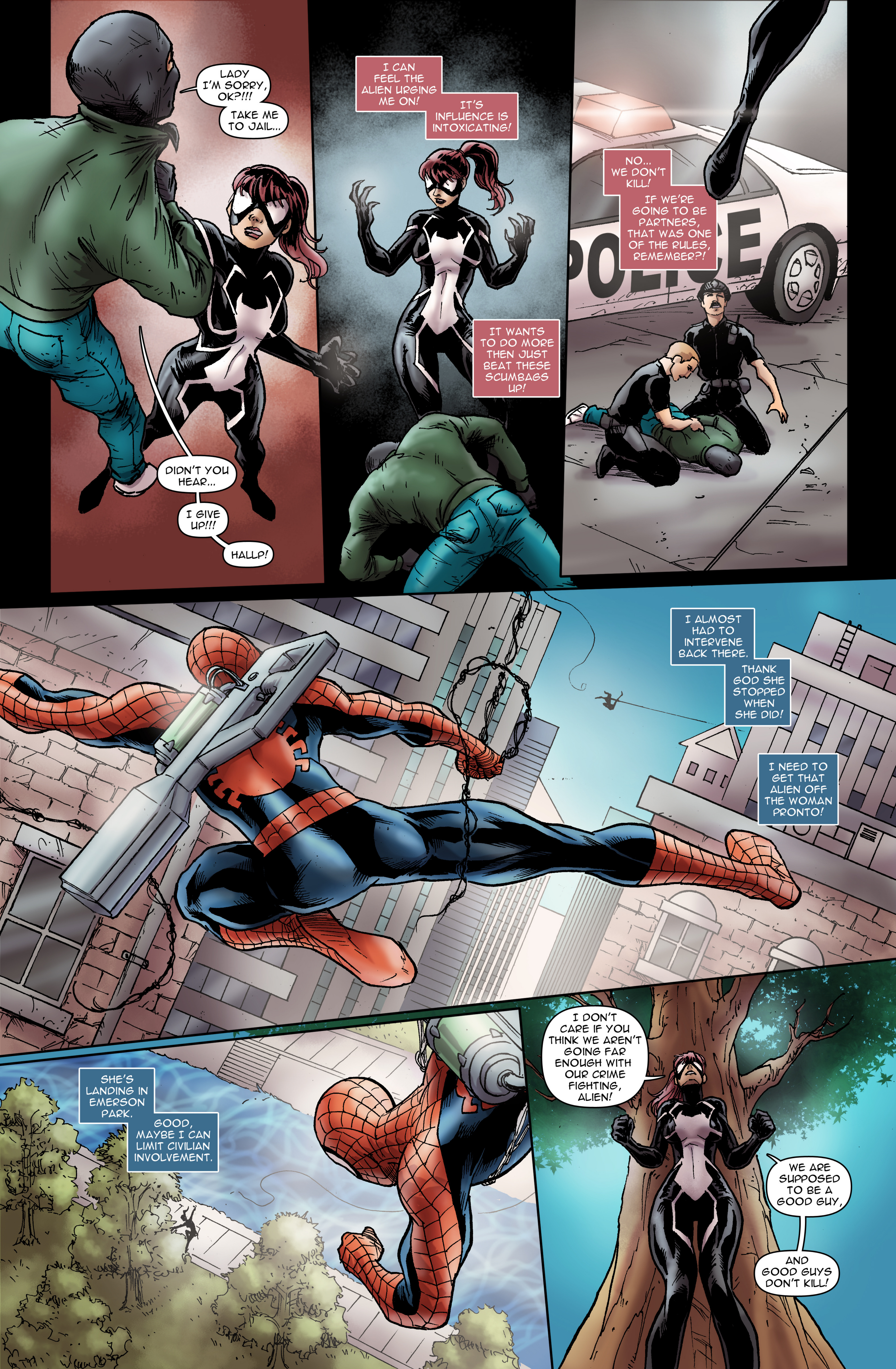

FIRST YOU ROB A PLACE,
THEN YOU WRONGLY ASSUME I'M ***SPIDER-MAN***...
...AND NOW YOU PICK A FIGHT WITH LITTLE OL' ME.
THAT'S STRIKE THREE FOR YOU BOZOS!
UH OH...
UMM... SORRY?
YEAH, YOU ARE *SORRY!*
A VERY SORRY EXCUSE FOR A BURGLAR!
THE POLICE ARE GOING TO WANT TO TALK TO YOU TWO,
AND I THINK YOU SHOULD BOTH STICK AROUND HERE FOR THEM!
HAH!
I MADE MY FIRST *QUIP!*
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
SINCE THEY ARE HERE...
IF YOU BOYS WILL EXCUSE ME...
...I'VE GOT OTHER PLACES TO BE!

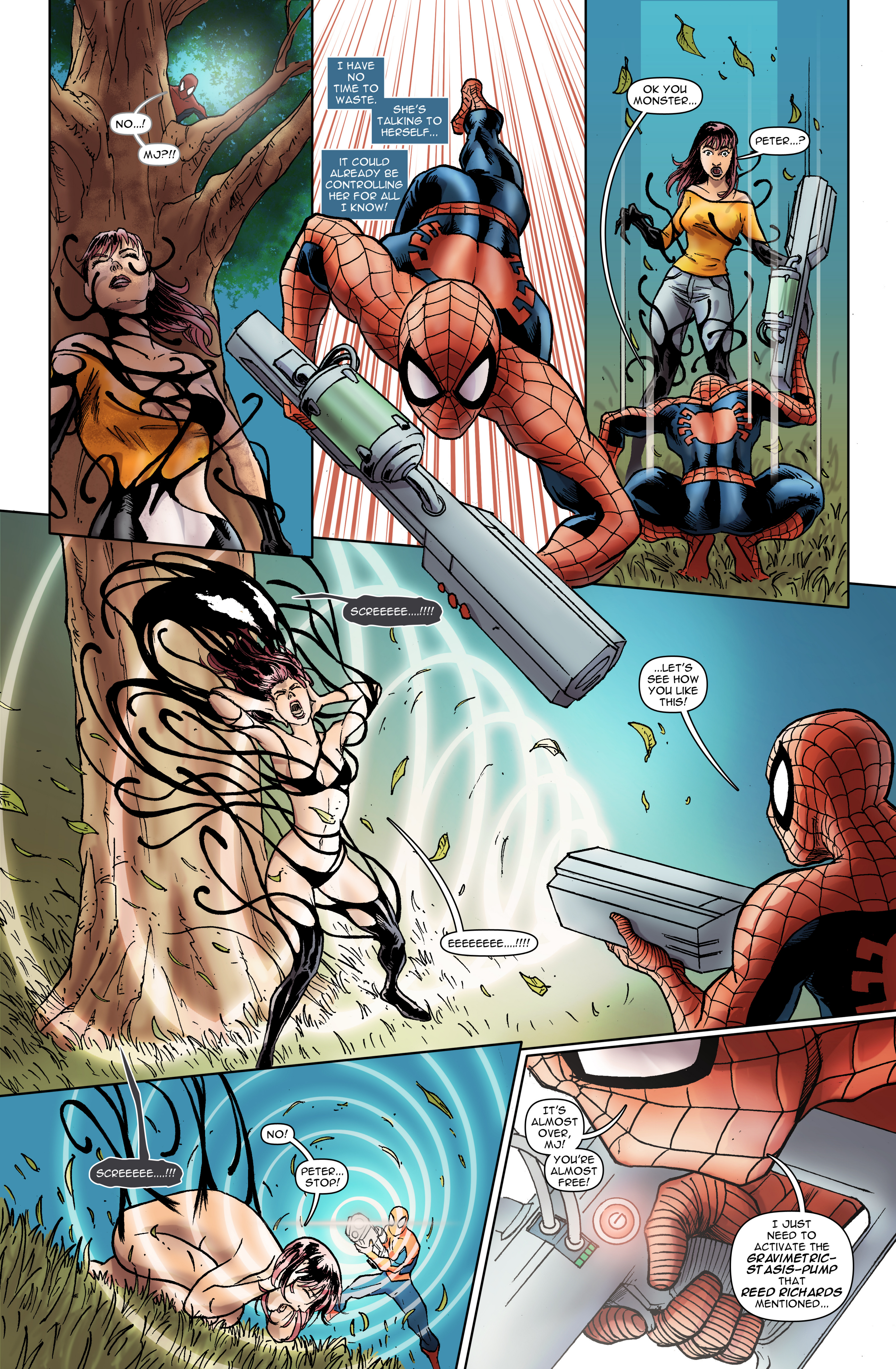

WOOHOO!
WHAT A RUSH TONIGHT HAS BEEN!
BETWEEN THE MUGGINGS EARLIER AND NOW THE ROBBERY WE JUST THWARTED,
I'D SAY WE'VE DONE OUR CITY A FAIR BIT OF JUSTICE THIS FINE NIGHT!
I'M GLAD I TOOK A CHANCE ON YOU, ALIEN.
PETER WAS OBVIOUSLY ILL INFORMED ON WHAT EXACTLY YOU ARE ABOUT.
WE DO MAKE A GREAT TEAM.
YOU'RE RIGHT... THERE IS SOMETHING BUGGING ME,
AND COME TOMORROW MORNING WE ARE GOING TO FIX THAT LITTLE BLEMISH!
BUT FOR NOW...
LETS GO SEE WHAT OTHER TROUBLE COMES OUR WAY!
ROUTINE SUPERHERO TROUBLE COMES AND GOES,
AND THE NEXT MORNING THE SUN ASSUMES IT'S POSITION...

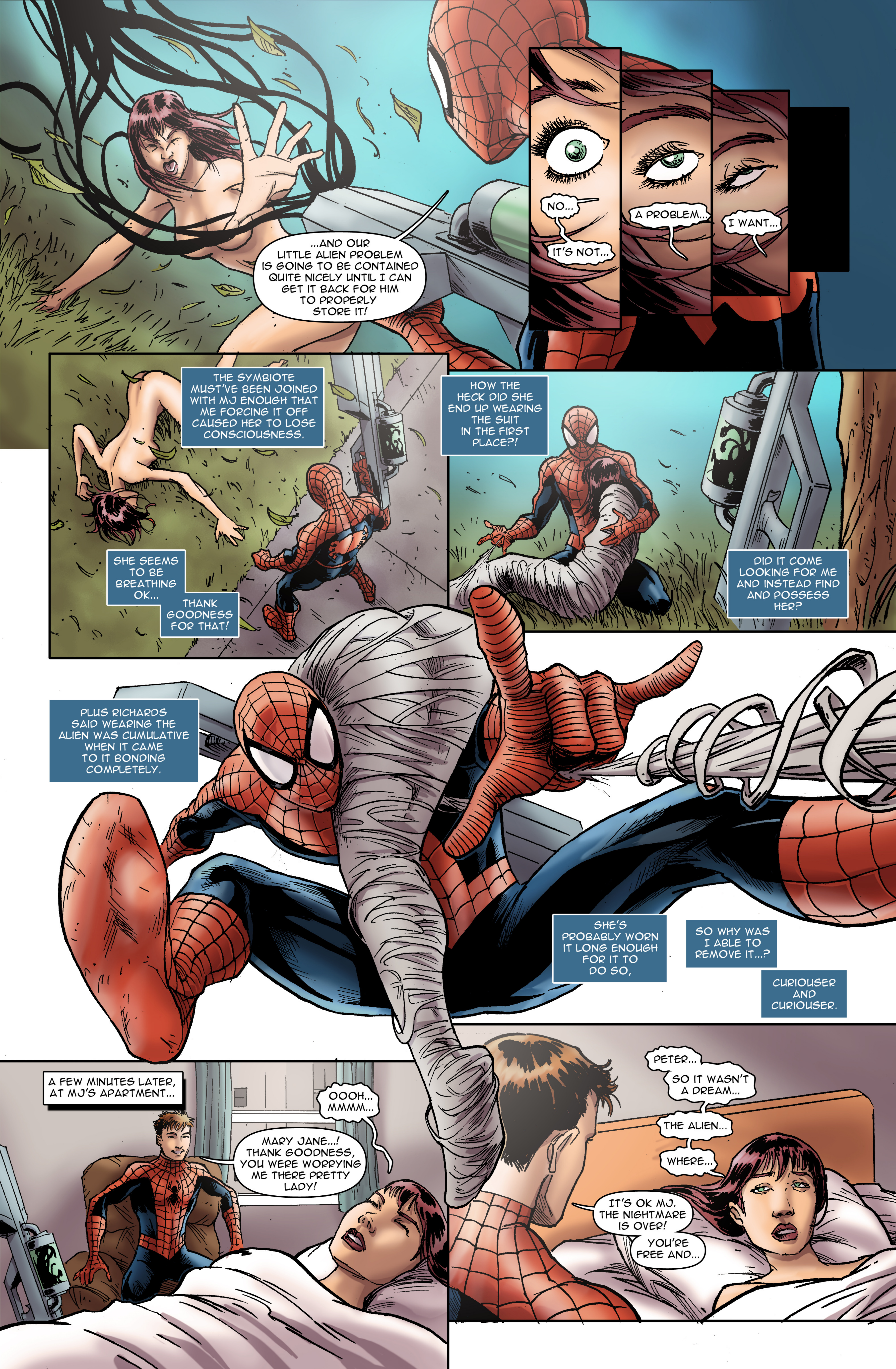

SIGH
AMATEURS...
JUST ONCE I WISH...
YOU HAD A TRUE PROFESSIONAL GROWN ADULT WOMAN WHO KNEW WHAT THE HELL SHE WAS DOING?!
YOU WANT DEMURE,
YOU WANT BOLD...
HECK YOU WANT DOWNRIGHT SHAMELESS...
I'M YOUR GIRL!
AND WE BOTH KNOW IT.
WOAH...
UMM...
YEAH...
MJ BABY...
THANK GOD YOU CAME BACK...
PIERRE, TAKE LOUISA AND MARGOT TO THE WAITING PARLOUR WHILE I DIRECT MS. WATSON.
DOES THIS WORK...?
HMMMM....?
YEAH!
WONDERFUL!
SPLENDID!
TALK TO THE CAMERA, BABY!
YES ALIEN,
THIS IS WHAT I DO ALL DAY.
IT'S FUN SEEING MEN ACT LIKE SLOBS, ISN'T IT?

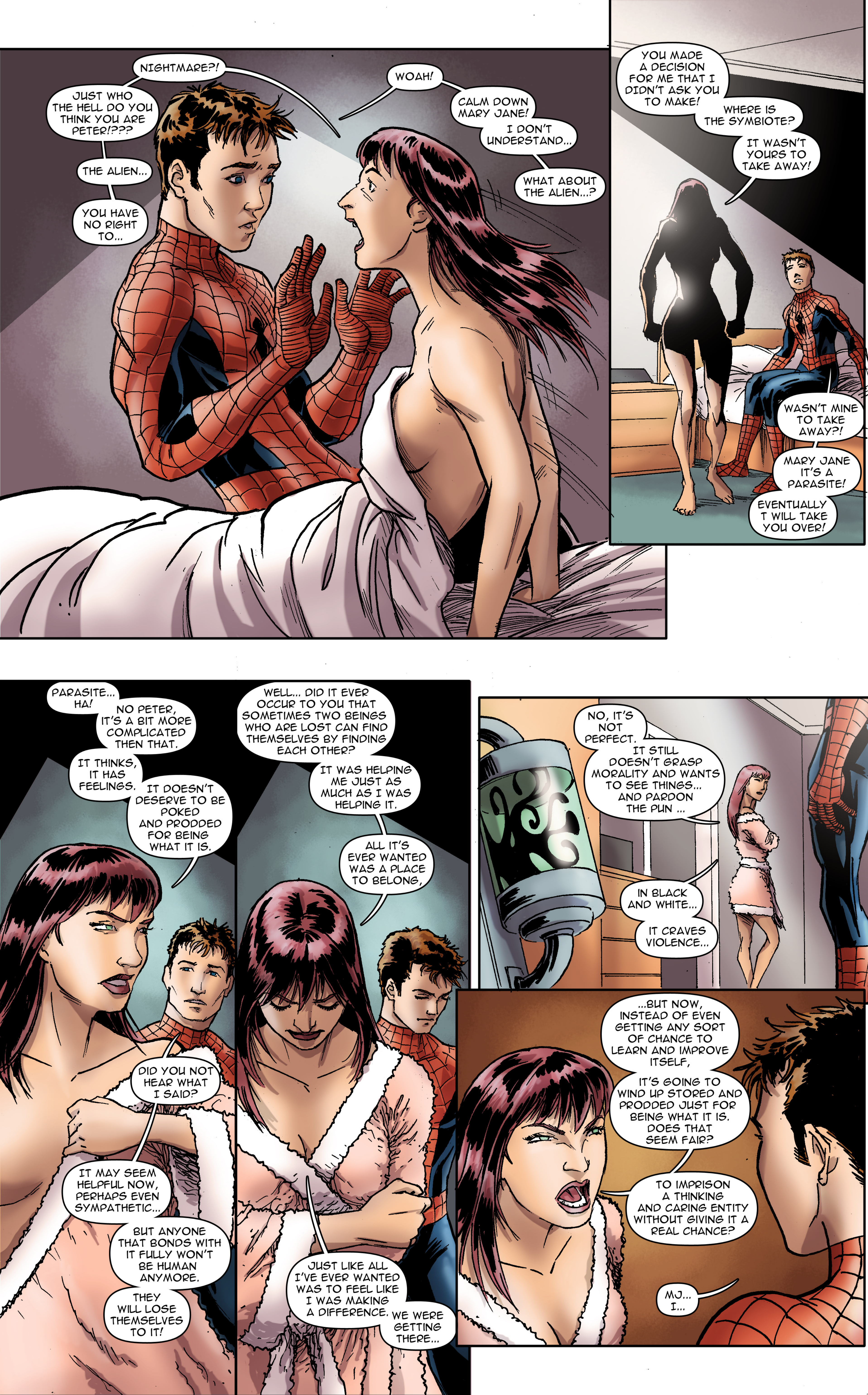

THE NEXT DAY...
WELL IT TURNS OUT MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT.
THAT FEMALE MASKED VIGILANTE I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT THE PAST WEEK OR SO IS DEFINITELY WEARING MY OLD ALIEN SYMBIOTE SUIT.
BAXTER
WITNESSES SAY SHE SEEMED TO HAVE ALL THE POWERS THAT I DO.
THE ALIEN MUST BE GRANTING THEM TO WHOEVER THE WOMAN IS, SOMEHOW...
HOPEFULLY THE ALIEN HASN'T HAD TIME TO FULLY BOND ITSELF TO THE WOMAN'S BODY YET.
SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T REALIZE THE TROUBLE SHE'S IN.
I HAVE TO FIND HER.
SPEAKING OF THE WOMAN *SPIDER-MAN* HAS TO FIND...
THAT BATH FELT NICE.
WHO KNEW BEING A SUPERHERO ALL NIGHT AFTER SPENDING ALL DAY MODELING WOULD WEAR A GIRL OUT?!
HONESTLY IT DOES FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS.
I FEEL FATIGUED BEYOND BELIEF WHENEVER IT'S NOT ON ME.
THE WAY IT FUELS MY EGO WHEN WE ARE LINKED,
THE OPPOSITE HAPPENS WHEN IT LEAVES.
I FEEL... LESSENED SOMEHOW.
AND I GET... CRAVINGS... ALMOST FEELS LIKE I'M GOING THROUGH WITHDRAWALS OR SOMETHING...?
NAH, THAT'S CRAZY... RIGHT?!
IT CAN READ MY MIND.
IT KNOWS I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.
I DON'T CARE.
I'M IN CHARGE...
YEAH... I... JUST NEED TO WEAR IT LESS.
NO MORE ALL-DAY UNIONS.
YEAH! I COULD BRING A BAG WITH A CHANGE OF CLOTHES,
LIMIT MY CONSTANT EXPOSURE TO IT AND SEE IF THAT HELPS...
AND WHAT IF THAT DOESN'T WORK...?
DO I GO TO PETER FOR HELP AND BETRAY THE SUIT? NO!
BUT... THE ONLY OTHER OPTION WOULD BE WHAT THE ALIEN DESPERATELY WANTS...
A PERMANENT BONDING...
DO I WANT THAT TOO...?

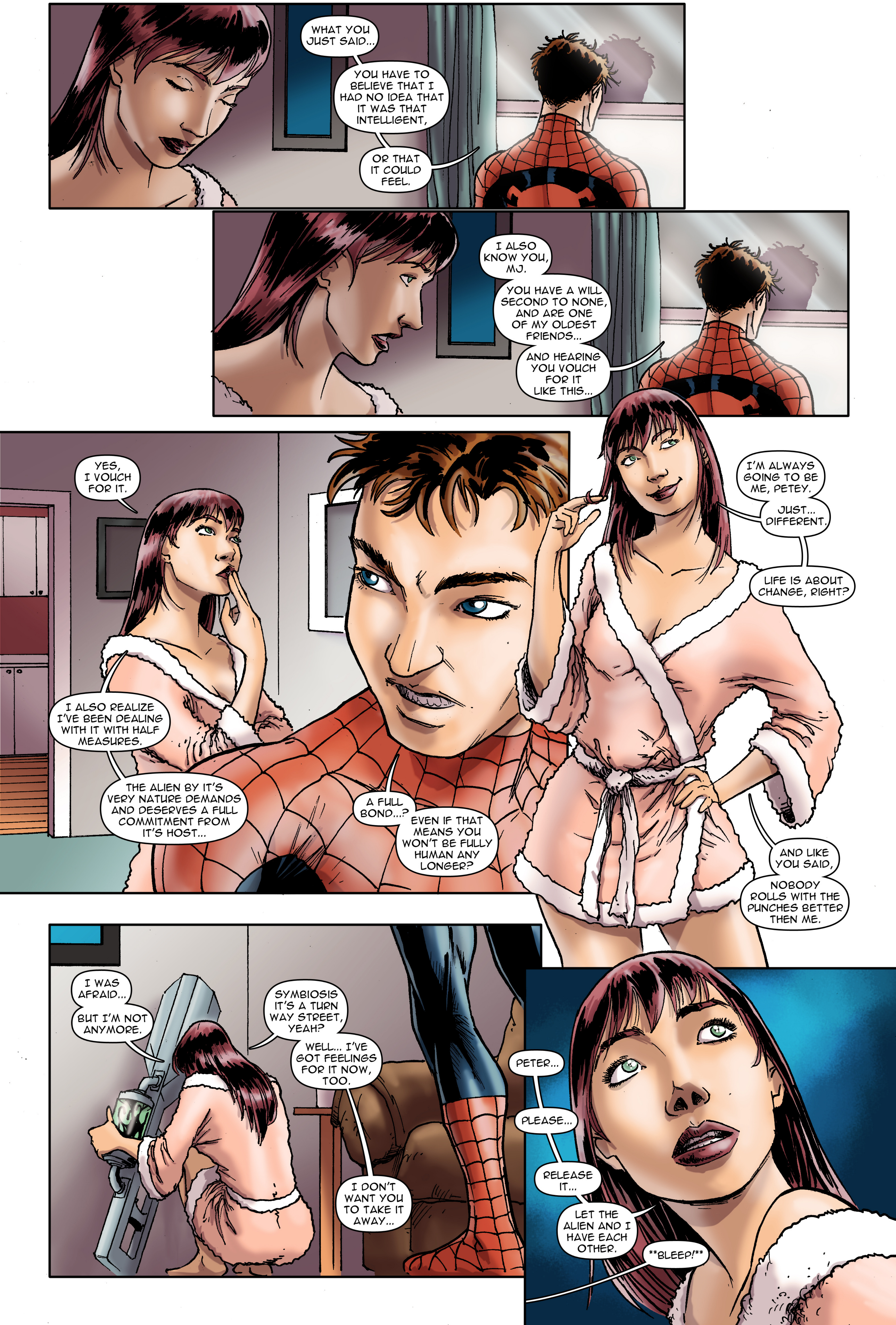

MAYBE THAT'S THE ANSWER TO THIS WHOLE THING...
BUT I'M NOT READY TO LET THAT HAPPEN JUST YET...
I NEED MORE TIME...
NO I'M NOT DISPLEASED WITH YOU, ALIEN.
I'M STILL...
ADJUSTING...
TO THIS WHOLE "I HAVE A LIVING ALIEN SUIT" THING. THAT'S ALL.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME,
BUT I THINK WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK.
ANYWAYS... LET'S GO DO A FEW ROUNDS,
SEE WHO WE CAN HELP!
ELSEWHERE...
STILL NOTHING.
MAYBE SHE ONLY COMES OUT AT NIGHT...?
UH OH. LOOKS LIKE THE POLICE COULD USE SOME FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE!
BINGO!
THERE'S THE WOMAN!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
IT'S DEFINITELY THE SYMBIOTE SHE'S WEARING!
SHE'S CHANGED IT'S APPEARANCE, BUT THE CHILLS IT'S GIVING ME ARE UNQUESTIONABLE!
MY HANDS...
THEY'VE BECOME CLAWS?!
PUHLLEEEEZ LADY...
I GIVE UP...
I GIVE UP...!

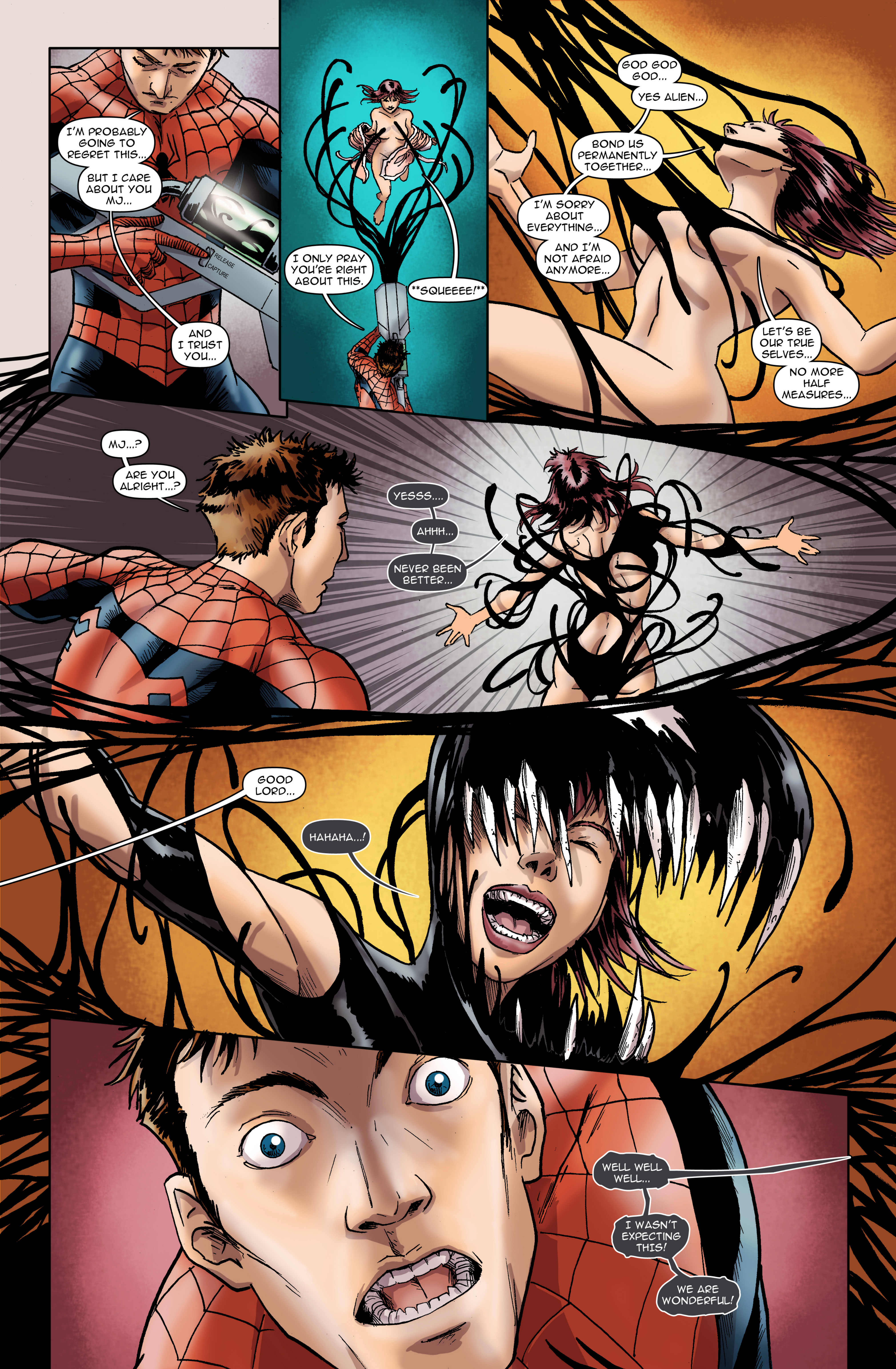

LADY I'M SORRY, OK?!!!
TAKE ME TO JAIL...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR...
I GIVE UP!!!
HALLP!
I CAN FEEL THE ALIEN URGING ME ON!
IT'S INFLUENCE IS INTOXICATING!
IT WANTS TO DO MORE THEN JUST BEAT THESE SCUMBAGS UP!
NO... WE DON'T KILL!
IF WE'RE GOING TO BE PARTNERS, THAT WAS ONE OF THE RULES, REMEMBER?!
POLICE
I ALMOST HAD TO INTERVENE BACK THERE.
THANK GOD SHE STOPPED WHEN SHE DID!
I NEED TO GET THAT ALIEN OFF THE WOMAN PRONTO!
SHE'S LANDING IN EMERSON PARK.
GOOD, MAYBE I CAN LIMIT CIVILIAN INVOLVEMENT.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU THINK WE AREN'T GOING FAR ENOUGH WITH OUR CRIME FIGHTING, ALIEN!
WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD GUY,
AND GOOD GUYS DON'T KILL!

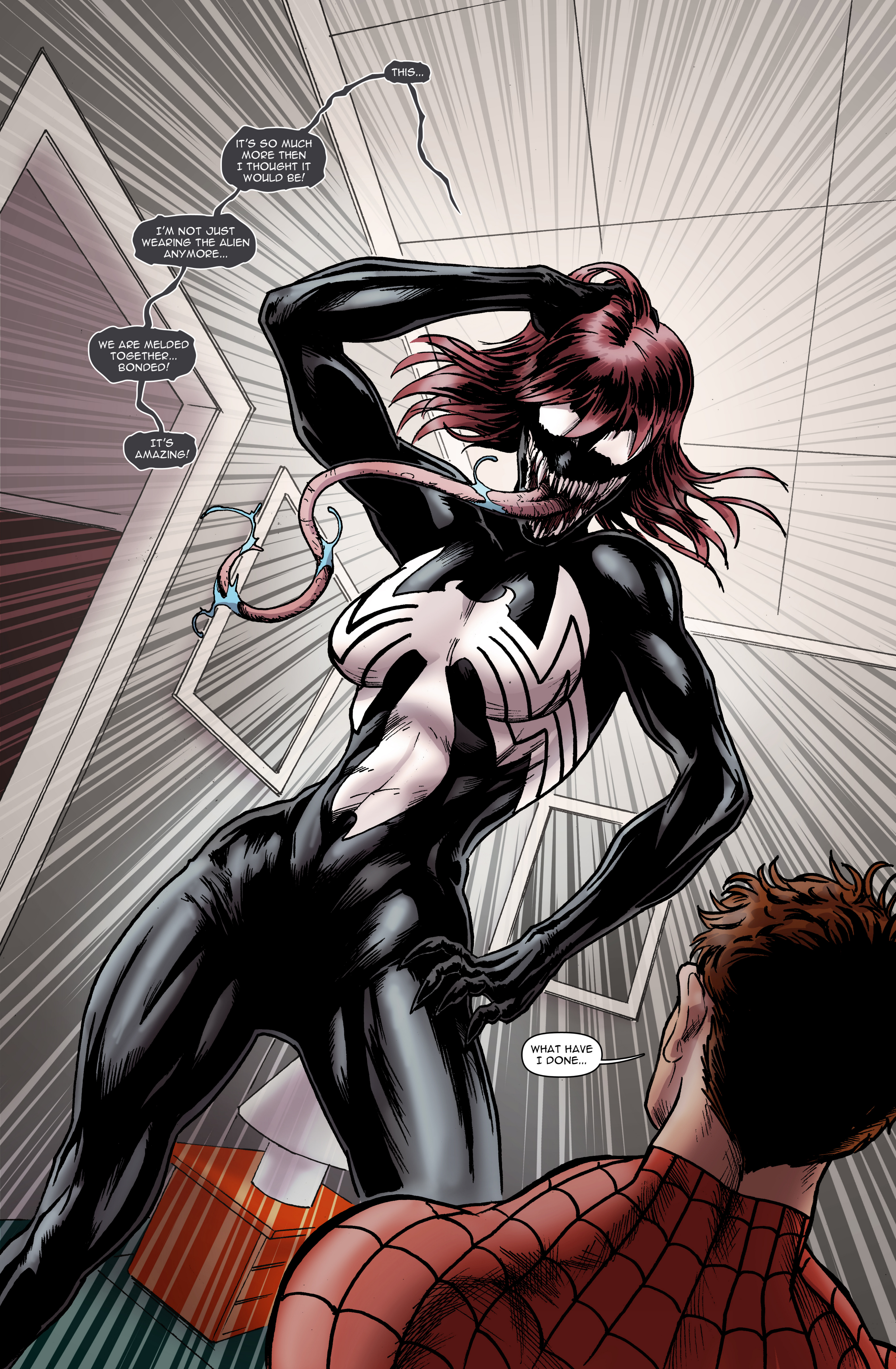

NO...!
MJ?!!
I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE.
SHE'S TALKING TO HERSELF...
IT COULD ALREADY BE CONTROLLING HER FOR ALL I KNOW!
OK YOU MONSTER...
PETER...?
SCREEEEE....!!!!
...LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE THIS!
EEEEEEEE....!!!!
SCREEEEE....!!!
NO!
PETER... STOP!
IT'S ALMOST OVER, MJ!
YOU'RE ALMOST FREE!
I JUST NEED TO ACTIVATE THE GRAVIMETRIC-STASIS-PUMP THAT REED RICHARDS MENTIONED...

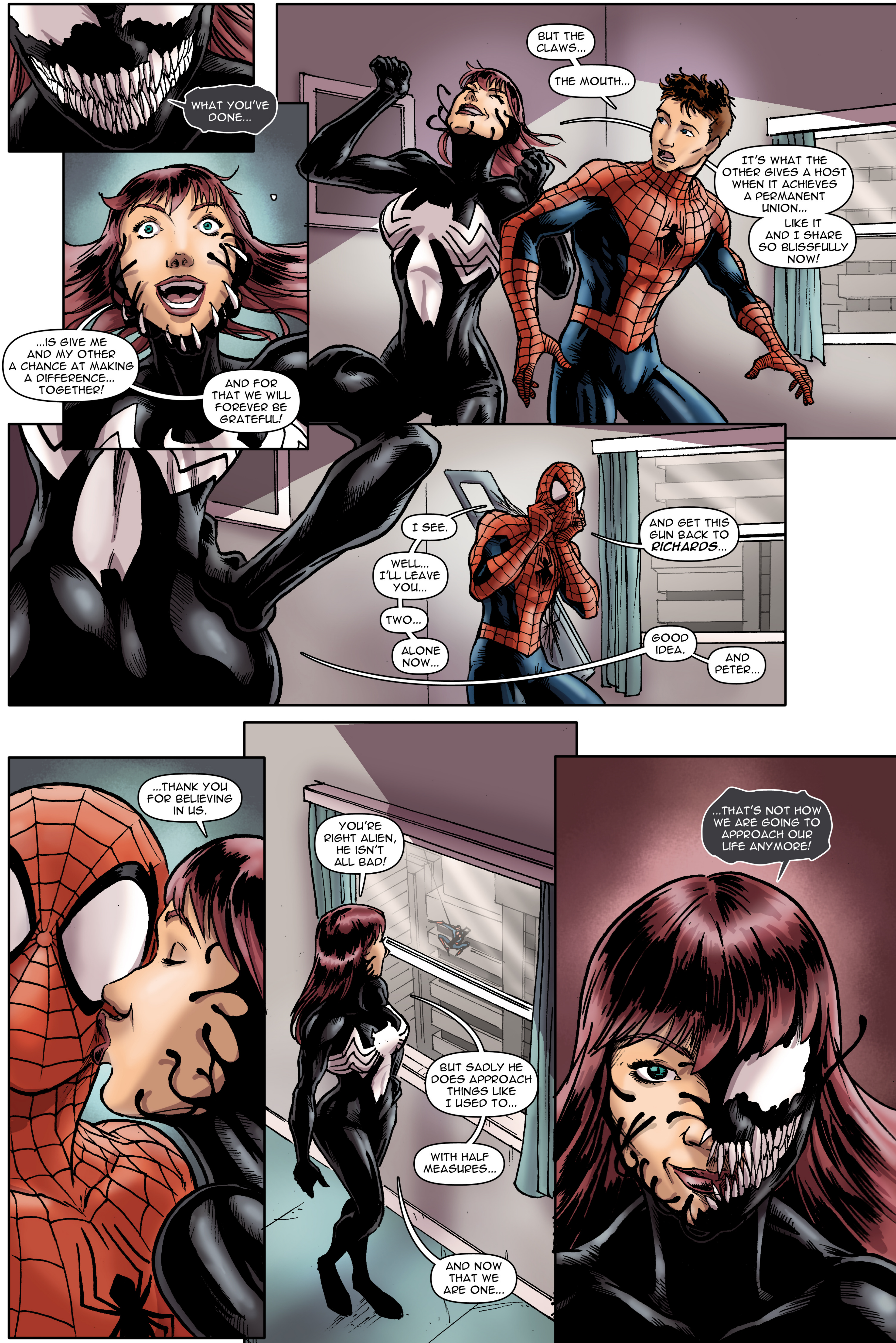

...AND OUR LITTLE ALIEN PROBLEM IS GOING TO BE CONTAINED QUITE NICELY UNTIL I CAN GET IT BACK FOR HIM TO PROPERLY STORE IT!
NO...
IT'S NOT...
A PROBLEM...
I WANT...
THE SYMBIOTE MUST'VE BEEN JOINED WITH MJ ENOUGH THAT ME FORCING IT OFF CAUSED HER TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS.
SHE SEEMS TO BE BREATHING OK...
THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT!
HOW THE HECK DID SHE END UP WEARING THE SUIT IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
DID IT COME LOOKING FOR ME AND INSTEAD FIND AND POSSESS HER?
PLUS RICHARDS SAID WEARING THE ALIEN WAS CUMULATIVE WHEN IT CAME TO IT BONDING COMPLETELY.
SHE'S PROBABLY WORN IT LONG ENOUGH FOR IT TO DO SO,
SO WHY WAS I ABLE TO REMOVE IT...?
CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER.
A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT MJ'S APARTMENT...
OOOH... MMMM...
MARY JANE...! THANK GOODNESS, YOU WERE WORRYING ME THERE PRETTY LADY!
PETER...
SO IT WASN'T A DREAM...
THE ALIEN...
WHERE...
IT'S OK MJ. THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER!
YOU'RE FREE AND...

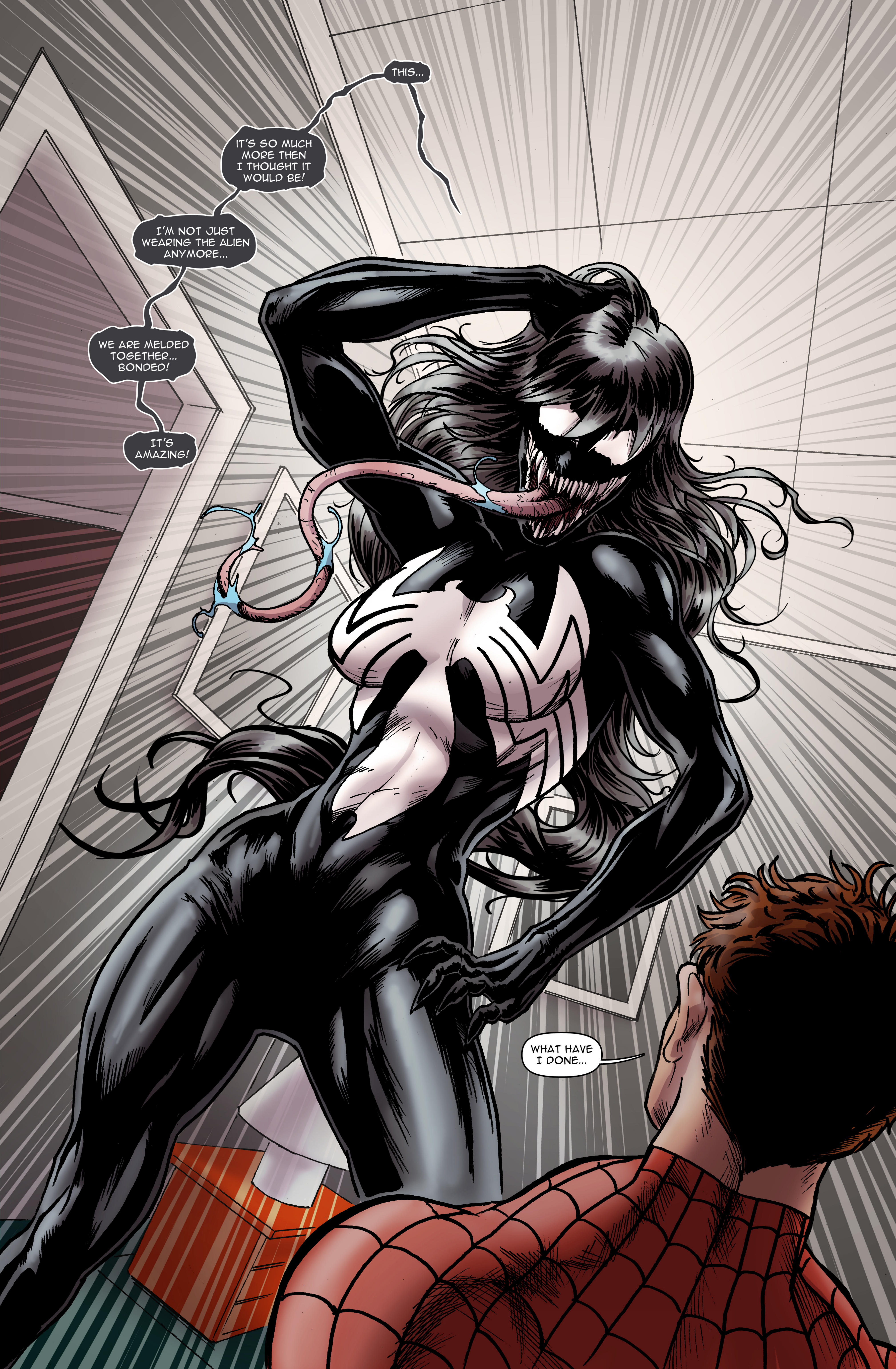

NIGHTMARE?!
JUST WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE PETER!???
THE ALIEN...
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO...
WOAH!
CALM DOWN MARY JANE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WHAT ABOUT THE ALIEN...?
YOU MADE A DECISION FOR ME THAT I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO MAKE!
WHERE IS THE SYMBIOTE?
IT WASN'T YOURS TO TAKE AWAY!
WASN'T MINE TO TAKE AWAY?!
MARY JANE IT'S A PARASITE!
EVENTUALLY T WILL TAKE YOU OVER!
PARASITE... HA!
NO PETER, IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THEN THAT.
IT THINKS, IT HAS FEELINGS.
IT DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE POKED AND PRODDED FOR BEING WHAT IT IS.
DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT I SAID?
IT MAY SEEM HELPFUL NOW, PERHAPS EVEN SYMPATHETIC...
BUT ANYONE THAT BONDS WITH IT FULLY WON'T BE HUMAN ANYMORE.
THEY WILL LOSE THEMSELVES TO IT!
WELL... DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT SOMETIMES TWO BEINGS WHO ARE LOST CAN FIND THEMSELVES BY FINDING EACH OTHER?
IT WAS HELPING ME JUST AS MUCH AS I WAS HELPING IT.
ALL IT'S EVER WANTED WAS A PLACE TO BELONG,
JUST LIKE ALL I'VE EVER WANTED WAS TO FEEL LIKE I WAS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
WE WERE GETTING THERE...
NO, IT'S NOT PERFECT.
IT STILL DOESN'T GRASP MORALITY AND WANTS TO SEE THINGS... AND PARDON THE PUN ...
IN BLACK AND WHITE...
IT CRAVES VIOLENCE...
...BUT NOW, INSTEAD OF EVEN GETTING ANY SORT OF CHANCE TO LEARN AND IMPROVE ITSELF,
IT'S GOING TO WIND UP STORED AND PRODDED JUST FOR BEING WHAT IT IS. DOES THAT SEEM FAIR?
TO IMPRISON A THINKING AND CARING ENTITY WITHOUT GIVING IT A REAL CHANCE?
MJ... I...


WHAT YOU JUST SAID...
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT I HAD NO IDEA THAT IT WAS THAT INTELLIGENT,
OR THAT IT COULD FEEL.
I ALSO KNOW YOU, MJ.
YOU HAVE A WILL SECOND TO NONE, AND ARE ONE OF MY OLDEST FRIENDS...
AND HEARING YOU VOUCH FOR IT LIKE THIS...
YES, I VOUCH FOR IT.
I ALSO REALIZE I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH IT WITH HALF MEASURES.
THE ALIEN BY IT'S VERY NATURE DEMANDS AND DESERVES A FULL COMMITMENT FROM IT'S HOST...
A FULL BOND...?
EVEN IF THAT MEANS YOU WON'T BE FULLY HUMAN ANY LONGER?
I'M ALWAYS GOING TO BE ME, PETEY.
JUST... DIFFERENT.
LIFE IS ABOUT CHANGE, RIGHT?
AND LIKE YOU SAID,
NOBODY ROLLS WITH THE PUNCHES BETTER THEN ME.
I WAS AFRAID...
BUT I'M NOT ANYMORE.
SYMBIOSIS IT'S A TURN WAY STREET, YEAH?
WELL... I'VE GOT FEELINGS FOR IT NOW, TOO.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO TAKE IT AWAY...
PETER...
PLEASE...
RELEASE IT...
LET THE ALIEN AND I HAVE EACH OTHER.
BLEEP!


I'M PROBABLY GOING TO REGRET THIS...
BUT I CARE ABOUT YOU MJ...
RELEASE
CAPTURE
AND I TRUST YOU...
I ONLY PRAY YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS.
SQUEEEE!
GOD GOD GOD...
YES ALIEN...
BOND US PERMANENTLY TOGETHER...
I'M SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING...
AND I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE...
LET'S BE OUR TRUE SELVES...
NO MORE HALF MEASURES...
MJ...?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT...?
YESSS....
AHHH...
NEVER BEEN BETTER...
GOOD LORD...
HAHAHA...!
WELL WELL WELL...
I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS!
WE ARE WONDERFUL!


THIS...
IT'S SO MUCH MORE THEN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!
I'M NOT JUST WEARING THE ALIEN ANYMORE...
WE ARE MELDED TOGETHER... BONDED!
IT'S AMAZING!
WHAT HAVE I DONE...


WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
...IS GIVE ME AND MY OTHER A CHANCE AT MAKING A DIFFERENCE... TOGETHER!
AND FOR THAT WE WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL!
BUT THE CLAWS...
THE MOUTH...
IT'S WHAT THE OTHER GIVES A HOST WHEN IT ACHIEVES A PERMANENT UNION...
LIKE IT AND I SHARE SO BLISSFULLY NOW!
I SEE.
WELL... I'LL LEAVE YOU...
TWO...
ALONE NOW...
AND GET THIS GUN BACK TO ***RICHARDS***...
GOOD IDEA.
AND PETER...
...THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN US.
YOU'RE RIGHT ALIEN, HE ISN'T ALL BAD!
BUT SADLY HE DOES APPROACH THINGS LIKE I USED TO...
WITH HALF MEASURES...
AND NOW THAT WE ARE ONE...
...THAT'S NOT HOW WE ARE GOING TO APPROACH OUR LIFE ANYMORE!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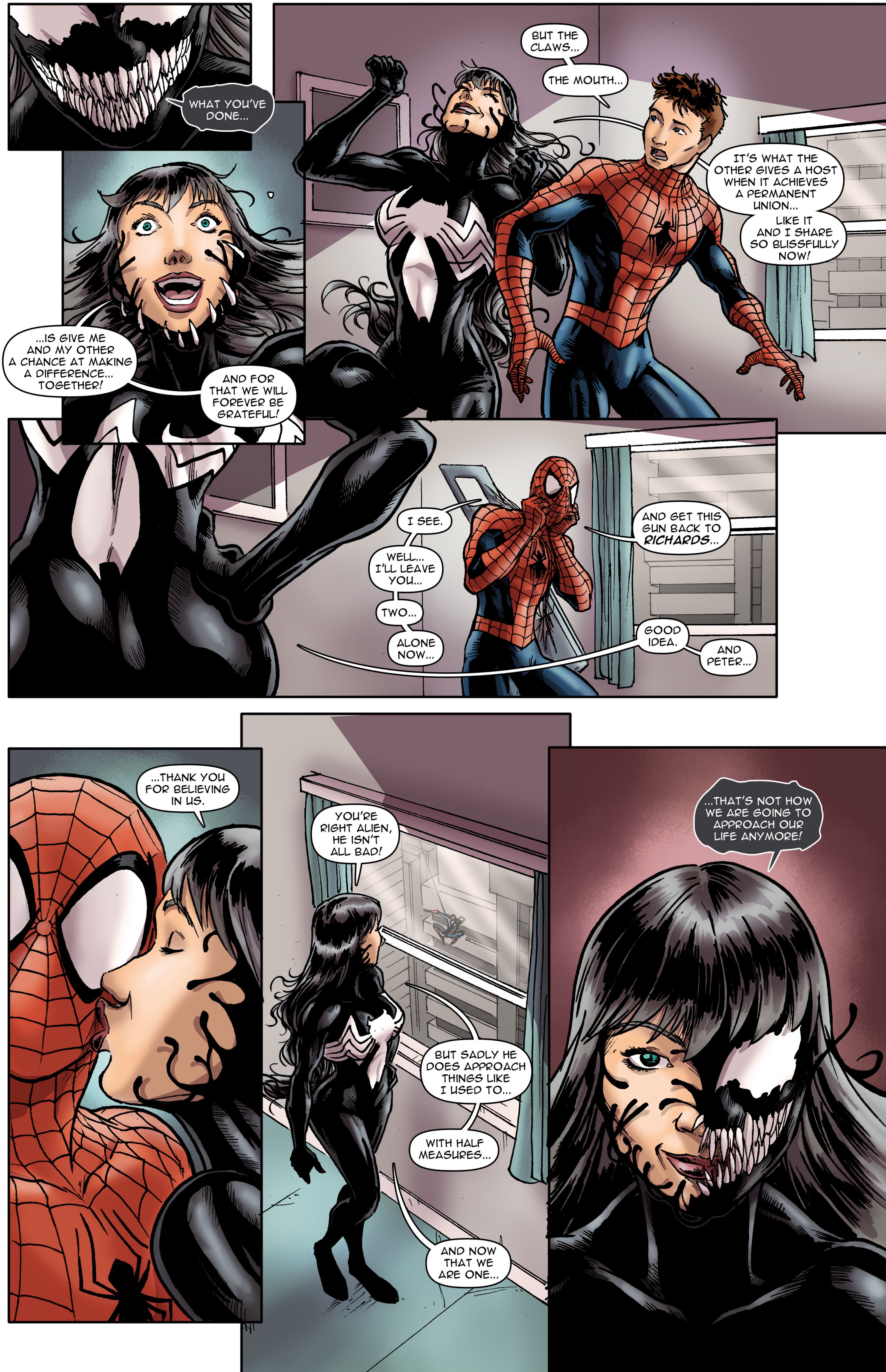
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